

TO CRUISE IN THE GULF.

North Atlantic Squadron Will Maneuver Off Florida Coast.

Interesting Programme of Drills and Maneuvers Laid Out for Our Battleships During the Winter.

The North Atlantic squadron will enter the Gulf of Mexico this winter and spend several months off the coast of Florida. This will be the first time in all three years that the squadron has been in the gulf, the last cruise having been made under the command of Rear Admiral Meade. It was the intention shortly after his retirement to send the squadron to the Venezuelan coast for the customary winter drills, but this was not deemed advisable on account of the friction that had been caused between the United States and Great Britain over the Venezuelan boundary question, it being feared that the vicinity of our war ships in the neighborhood of the scene of dispute would be misconstrued into a hostile purpose. Later on, and after the Venezuelan matter had dropped into the background, the situation as to Cuba was regarded by the administration as being such as to make it imprudent to allow the squadron to absent itself from unprotected shores. Moreover, the approach of the ships to Cuba would have been interpreted by the insurgents as a sign of the intention of the United States government to interfere in their behalf. All of these reasons have now ceased to be in force, and the action of Secretary Long in permitting the ships to go south give more, taken in connection with the sending of the little gunboats to the West Indies, is an evidence of the faith of the administration in the peaceful outcome of the future. Capt. Taylor, the commander of the big battleship Indiana, has been at the navy department for a conference with Secretary Long as to plans for the movements of the squadron, and it has been arranged that the harbor of Key West shall form the rendezvous of the vessels. The conditions there, it is said at the department, are very favorable. The exact date for the assembling of the ships there has not yet been fixed, this detail being dependent upon when the ships now being overhauled complete their repairs. Admiral Siard will give the signal for the southern cruise. The torpedo boat flotilla probably will be in the neighborhood of Key West about the time the squadron is in the harbor, and some interesting drills and mock attacks may be expected.

SEA SERPENT CAUGHT.

Turtle Taken off Lake Front at Chicago That Weighs 500 Pounds.

The dreaded "sea serpent" which has been seen by lake skippers awake and asleep for a dozen years has been overhauled at last by three fishermen, Frank and Charles Martin and Charles Cramen, and now lies dead at Chicago.

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It is a ponderous lake turtle.

The Martins and Cramen went out to the breakwater in the morning to take in their fish nets and they found the turtle entangled in the meshes of one of their great nets and making terrific efforts to escape. With six eight stout poles, a pair of axes and a coil of tough rope the three fishers did battle from a small boat.

Several times the boat was nearly capsized by the strokes of the turtle's paddles, two of the poles were broken in the fray and the "sea serpent's" human foes were splashed by the great splashes. But the turtle was vanquished in time and towed lifeless to shore. Its age is estimated at half a century.

JILTED LOVERS' CLUB.

Unique Organization to Be Incorporated in New York.

Lawyer Lorin Andrews will apply in New York state for a charter for the Jilted Lovers' club, an organization composed of young men of various ages and complexions who have a common sorrow.

No one will be eligible who has not been "trun down" by some candid and unrequiting female. The members of the Jilted Lovers' club believe that no one can bind men closer than the bond of mutual disappointment in love.

They will select quarters, will be a duly incorporated body under the laws of the state of New York, and periodically will assemble and rehearse the memories of the days when the neck of their affections received the fatal and final blow.

CAMELS FOR KLONDIKE.

Latest Suggestion of Means of Reaching the Gold Fields.

Charles Dabney, representing a party of about 50 Michigan people who propose to go to the Klondike region early in the spring, before navigation opens, was in Portland, Ore., for several days before leaving for Japan on his way to Vladivostok, Siberia, to secure dogs, camels or reindeer teams for his party. Mr. Dabney said he would procure a supply of either of these animals, and will select whichever he concludes will answer his purpose. He expects to return in February, and will ship his animals from Vladivostok, or if that port is frozen, from some more southerly point to Japan, and bring them to the Pacific coast for shipment north.

A Failure.

Bombay's plant for electrolyzing sea water for sewage purposes has proved a failure, the chlorine obtained costing twice as much as that procurable from chloride of lime.

VICTORY FOR TOBACCO MEN.

Points Involving the Duty on Mixed Bales Decided in Their Favor.

A decision of much importance to the tobacco importing interest has been rendered by the board of general appraisers in favor of the importer. The case was a test one coming up on a protest by Rothschild & Bro., tobacco merchants of New York city, against a ruling of Collector Bidwell in regard to the classification of four bales of tobacco and the assessment of duty thereon. These bales consisted chiefly of filler tobacco, but contained from two to four per cent. of wrapper tobacco. By the decision of the collector the filler and wrapper materials were separated and all the wrapper tobacco was assessed for duty at \$1.35 per pound, while the filler was dutiable at 35 cents per pound. The importers claimed that each bale should be assessed as a unit of 35 cents per pound, and that so small an amount as less than 15 per cent. of wrapper tobacco could not properly be separated from it.

The question at issue excited great interest, not only among tobacco importers in New York, but among the cigar manufacturers in Florida, and a lawyer of that state, Mr. Gunby, came on to New York to argue the case before the general appraisers for the importers. The decision upholding the importers says in part: "Tobacco in mixed bales containing various percentages of wrapper tobacco, less than 15 per cent. to each bale, and the remainder all filler tobacco, is dutiable under said Paragraph 213 at 35 cents per pound as filler tobacco not specially provided for. The two grades of tobacco cannot be constructively separated and assessed for duty as part wrapper and part filler, but each bale must be classed as an entirety."

TO WORK FOR NUMBERS.

Presbyterians to Increase Sunday-School Army to 1,500,000 Members.

Rev. Dr. James A. Worden, superintendent of the Sunday school department of the Presbyterian church in this country, has begun a movement to celebrate the opening of the twentieth century. His idea is to recruit the Sunday school army of his church so that instead of 1,000,000 members, as at present, it will consist of a host of 1,500,000. He wants this work of enlisting the 500,000 of reinforcements completed by April 1, 1901, the beginning of the church year in the first year of the next century.

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