

BIG STICK FALLS ON BROWNSON

President Makes Known His Attitude on Admiral's Action in Hospital Ship Matter.

SOME CAUSTIC OBSERVATIONS

The Course Unseemly and Improper And Prejudicial to the Interests of the Navy.

Washington, Jan. 5.—President Roosevelt's attitude on the question of the command of hospital ships in the navy, which resulted in the resignation of Admiral Willard H. Brownson, has been made known today when Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Taft, gave to the press two letters from the president addressed to him on these subjects.

CONDEMNED BROWNSON'S ACT.
In the first of these letters President Roosevelt condemns in unmeasured terms the act of Admiral Brownson, declaring it to be unseemly and improper. The question upon which Admiral Brownson took issue with the navy department, the president declares, is one on which there can be entirely legitimate difference of opinion, but he adds "there is no room for difference of opinion as to the gross impropriety of the admiral's conduct in resigning sooner than carry out the orders of his superior officers in such a matter. The officers of the navy must remember that it is not merely childish, but in the highest degree reprehensible, to permit enough personal pique, wounded vanity, or factional feeling on behalf of some particular bureau or organization to render them disloyal to the interests of the navy and therefore of the country as a whole."

EXAGGERATORS ROASTED.
Regarding the controversies in the navy, the president admits there always were and always will be defects, both in the construction of the ships and in the organization of the department, and in the actual drill of the fleet. It is well, he says, that these defects are pointed out, but it is also well that they should be pointed out without exaggerations or malicious untruthfulness. He scathingly rebukes those who are guilty of exploiting in grossly exaggerated form in the fancied interest of an individual or clique of individuals or for the sake of supplying sensational material to newspapers. Because of so much misrepresentation and exaggeration, the president has asked Secretary Taft for a statement of the exact facts concerning what there have been disputes, desiring particularly the opinion of Admiral Converse, formerly chief of the navigation bureau, who, because of his high professional attainments and standard of conduct and duty, the president considers peculiarly fitted to give judgment. The letter to Secretary Taft regarding the retirement of Admiral Brownson and the controversies is as follows:

PRESIDENT'S LETTER.
"The White House, Wash., Jan. 2, 1908.—The Secretary of the Navy: In accordance with our conversation of today, Capt. Pillsbury will be appointed chief of the bureau of navigation. "The action of the late chief of the bureau, Admiral Brownson, in tendering his resignation because he did not agree with the president and the department regarding an order issued before he came into the bureau, by the secretary of the navy, as to the control of the hospital ships, was unseemly and improper, and coupled with the various controversies among the officers of the navy and their adherents as to details

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of naval construction and methods of training, has undoubtedly been prejudicial to the interests of the navy and may seriously impair the confidence in the navy which is essential to secure legislation so sorely needed by the navy. The way in which these controversies have been carried is highly injurious to the service, whether the communications are made openly over the signatures who have evidently gained their information from naval officers.

EFFECTS ALWAYS EXIST.

"There always are, and always will be, defects to correct both in the construction of ships, and the organization of the department, and in the actual drill of the fleet. It is well that these defects should be pointed out, but it is also well that they should be pointed out without hysterical exaggeration or malicious untruthfulness; while it is, of course, reprehensible in the highest degree to exploit them in grossly exaggerated form in the fancied interest of an individual or clique of individuals, or for the sake of supplying sensational material to some service or non-service newspapers. The officers of the navy who are guilty of such conduct deserve grave rebuke. They cast discredit upon the service and their conduct is deeply mortifying to every American who believes in the navy and is anxious to uphold its integrity and honor."

"There has been so much misrepresentation that I desire you to make me a statement as to the exact facts concerning which there has been dispute. In particular, I desire you to get the opinion of Admiral Converse, who, until last spring, was the chief of the bureau of navigation, and whose high professional attainments and standard of duty, and high professional knowledge and attainments render him peculiarly fit to give judgment."

BROWNSON'S BEHAVIOR.

"I would willingly pass over the conduct of Admiral Brownson because of his fine service in the past if it were not that at a time when a new chief is chosen to succeed him, it becomes imperative to stamp with disapproval the behavior which, if followed throughout the navy generally, would literally ruin the navy's efficiency. The question as to whether Admiral Brownson took issue with department, I will deal with in a separate letter. "It is one as to which there can be entirely legitimate differences of opinion, although in my judgment the consideration in favor of the course decided upon are overwhelming. But there is no room for difference of opinion as to the gross impropriety of the admiral's conduct in resigning sooner than carry out the orders of his superior officers in such a matter. The officers of the navy must remember that it is not merely childish, but in the highest degree reprehensible, to permit enough personal pique, wounded vanity or factional feeling on behalf of some particular bureau, to render them disloyal to the interests of the navy, and therefore, to the country as a whole."

MUST MAINTAIN DISCIPLINE.

"The question whether one officer or another should command a ship is of

little consequence compared with the weakening of all command and discipline, which would result if officers were to refuse to serve when their temporary orders are issued. Their sole concern should be for the good of the service, and have only lack of courage in actual warfare, obedience and loyalty are the most essential qualities in keeping the service up to the highest standard. The different branches of the department, the different branches of the service, must act in co-operation, and the questions that arise between them must be settled by the authority of the secretary of the navy and of the president under and in accordance with the law enacted by Congress; and the first duty of every officer, whether of the line, of the pay department, of the medical department or of the construction department, whether in a bureau or another department, is to give immediate and loyal obedience to every lawful command of a superior, and of course, above all, to the law itself. This duty is incumbent upon all, but it is most incumbent upon those high in rank, whose example may be of far-reaching effect."

"THEODORE ROOSEVELT."

The president's second letter to Mr. Metcalf is an argument to sustain his decision to assign officers to command of hospital ships.

ADMIRAL IS MUM.

Admiral Brownson was shown the president's letter today by a representative of the Associated Press and asked if he would not feel at liberty to say something in his own behalf. "Not a word," was his prompt reply, and this attitude he maintained throughout the interview. The admiral has consistently declined to say anything for publication in the whole matter.

Admiral Brownson left Washington this afternoon for a duck shooting trip in South Carolina.

KILLED BY LIFE PRESERVER.

Man Swimming to Shore Struck by One Thrown to Save Him.

San Francisco, Jan. 6.—Through overzealousness on the part of his companions, Ah Mah, a Chinese passenger on the Nippon Maru, was accidentally killed yesterday by a life preserver. Ah Mah was standing on the bow of the Japanese liner when a davit struck him and knocked him overboard into the bay. He was a good swimmer and started through the water toward the shore.

The accident was witnessed by his friends, who hurled a big life buoy to Ah Mah. It struck him on the back, killing him instantly. His body has not been recovered.

ANNUAL COST OF RACE HORSES IN AMERICA \$10,000,000

New York, Jan. 6.—The registration committee of the Jockey club has completed figures which show that the annual cost of race horses in America is practically \$10,000,000. The figures will be printed in a report to the national bureau of animal industry, a branch of the department of agriculture. The report shows that last year, \$2,212,500 was spent for the care of 7,500 thoroughbred race horses in various parts of the country and average of \$3 a day for each animal. With the percentage of purses won, paid to trainers and the salaries of jockeys and stable hands, transportation and other odds and ends, it is stated that the total will easily reach \$10,000,000.

WILLIAM H. FAIRBANK DEAD.

Warren, Mass., Jan. 5.—William H. Fairbank, former Massachusetts commissioner to the Portland, Or., exposition, more recently commissioner from this state to the Jamestown exposition, died today at his home here, aged 71 years.

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RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA

President Very Anxious That They Shall Be Made Closer And More Friendly.

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Personal Intercourse Strongly Tends To Destroy Foolish Prejudices Arising from Lack of Knowledge.

Philadelphia, Jan. 5.—President Roosevelt's interest in matters relating to Latin-America is clearly shown in a letter written by him to Dr. L. S. Rowe of the University of Pennsylvania, which the latter made public tonight. Dr. Rowe recently concluded a tour of a year and a half in South America, during which he investigated economic, social and political conditions in all the countries on the other side of the equator. During the last six weeks the president has discussed with Dr. Rowe the results of his tour. Plans for the cultivation of closer relations between the Latin-American countries and the United States which were discussed with the president, will be presented by Dr. Rowe in an address to be delivered next Thursday before the annual meeting of the Association of American Universities at the University of Michigan. The president's letter is as follows:

"December 31, 1907.—Mr. Dear Dr. Rowe: I have been deeply interested in going over with you the results of your trip through South America, and the various plans which you have in mind for fostering closer intellectual relations between the northern and the southern sections of the continent. I deem it most important that in addition to the friendly relations existing between the governments of the American republics, closer personal ties should be formed between the leaders of thought in these republics. Such personal relations strongly tend to destroy the foolish prejudice and misconceptions that arise out of lack of knowledge of one another. In this western hemisphere, each of our republics can both learn and teach when brought into touch with her sister republics. "I know of no agencies better adapted to the accomplishment of this great purpose than the universities of the American continent. There are many economic, social and industrial problems—not to speak of others more purely scientific—there are distinctive American in character and continental in scope. Through the co-operation of the students and investigators of our different nations the accumulated experience of this hemisphere can be brought to bear on these problems and their successful solution thereby rendered more probable. The community of thought and action thus aroused will also serve a larger patriotic service in binding together more and more closely all the peoples of this western hemisphere. "I heartily wish all success to this movement. "Sincerely yours, "THEODORE ROOSEVELT."

POSTAL AFFAIRS.

First Asst. P. M. Gen. Hitchcock Makes His Annual Report.

Washington, Jan. 5.—The annual report of First Assistant Postmaster-general Frank H. Hitchcock was made public today. The revenues collected through the postoffice during the fiscal year 1906 amounted to about \$18,000,000, a gain of more than \$15,000,000, and the report states that the growth was continued in 1907, when the aggregate was \$18,000,000. In order to meet this continuous growth of his bureau, Mr. Hitchcock makes an appeal for larger appropriations. "The present policy of reappointing presidential postmasters who have con-

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ducted their offices to the satisfaction of the public and of the department has resulted in decided benefit to the service," says Mr. Hitchcock. He adds that about 85 per cent of the presidential postmasters have been reappointed. Increased salaries for various classes of employees of the department are recommended. In order to relieve third-class postmasters of the necessity of paying for assistants out of their salaries, a recommendation is made for an increase of \$2,000,000 of the allowances for the purpose. Thirty instead of 15 days' annual leave is recommended for postal employees. An extension of this city delivery service to smaller towns than are included under the present law is included. Under the amendment to the law he suggests free delivery would be given to over 1,400 towns that do not now enjoy that advantage. The total number of postmasters of all classes appointed during the year was 13,315, as against 14,535 for 1905.

Got to go—uncalled for suits, half price. Daniels, 67 West Second South.

CANAL LOCKS.
Panama Commission Will Stand by The Hundred Feet Width.
Washington, Jan. 5.—By unanimous decision the isthmian canal commission will recommend to the secretary of war that the locks be constructed at their present projected width, namely, 100 feet, holding that this will be ample for all commercial shipping for years to come. If, however, it is the judgment of the navy department and of the president that the proposed width be increased to 110 feet, this can be done at reasonable cost, and it is believed, without danger of structural weakness. The suggestion for increased width originated with the navy, where, among some of the officials, the opinion prevails that this may be necessary to meet naval development in increased beams of war vessels of the future.

BORAH RETIRES.
Boise, Jan. 5.—Before leaving the city late Saturday night for Washington, to resume his work in Congress, United States Senator Borah gave out the information that he would recommend to President Roosevelt the appointment of William Balderson of this city to be register of the Boise land office, upon his arrival in the national capital. Mr. Borah also announced before leaving Boise that he had retired from the law firm of Borah, Cavanaugh & Blake of this city and that he would not practice law during his incumbency in the senate.

DENVER CATTLE SHOW.
Denver, Colo., Jan. 5.—One of the biggest crowds of the year will be in Denver, Jan. 29-30, to attend the Western Livestock exposition. The exposition this year, for the first time in its history, will be a national event, with entries of cattle, horses, sheep and hogs from all parts of the country. During stock show week there will be held a grand horse fair, public sales of purebred cattle under the direction of the National Livestock association, the eleventh annual convention of the American National Livestock association, the eighth annual convention of the Colorado Cattle and Horse Growers' association, and the convention of the Colorado Grain Growers' association.

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WINNING NUMBERS

First Prize, won by W. Sharrock, 639 First street; ticket No. 5,828.
Second Prize was won by Mrs. A. L. Estes, 706 1-2 South Main street; ticket No. 8,186.
No. 4,427 wins third prize, and is not yet claimed.

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