

"Japan Times"
July 10, 1907.

U.S. NAVY AND DEFENCES.

The Government at Washington has declared that a useful work is quietly proceeding in the putting of the navy and coast defences on the Pacific in a good condition as appropriations permit. A drydock is being constructed on Puget Sound, and it is expected that a special effort will be made to dredge the channel of Mare Island Navy Yard to make it accessible to heavy battleships. It is rumoured that Secretary Root in his forthcoming visit to Mexico will negotiate for the purchase of a site for a naval station at Magdalena Bay, Lower California.

THE BATTLESHIP SQUADRON DEMONSTRATION.

July 8.

The transfer of the American battleship fleet to the Pacific has excited attention in Japan.

President Roosevelt, through Rear Admiral Brownson, declares that he proposes to give the world a somewhat startling demonstration of what the American Navy is capable of doing to protect either or both coasts of the United States. There is no time like the present for such a demonstration, when the United States is at perfect peace with every nation.

THE U.S. ACTIVITY.

President Roosevelt declares that the battleship expedition is to test the readiness and defensive force of the navy, and does not signify any fear of war. America is at peace with all nations.

The Government also denies that it is going to buy the bay of Magdalena from Mexico. The U.S. will establish there only a coaling station for the annual gun practice of the navy.

U.S. NAVY.

Admiral Evans, Commander-in-Chief Atlantic Fleet, says it is absurd to construe the appearance of the squadron in the territorial waters of the Western coast of the U.S. as a demonstration against Japan.

(FROM THE "JISL.")

AMERICAN NAVAL MOVEMENT.

Washington, July 7.—The principal newspapers disapprove the plan for sending the strong battleship squadron to the Pacific and advise the President to alter the decision. The consensus of opinion is that no such action should be taken as to cause Japan to suspect any aggressive scheme on the part of America. Among the less important papers, however, there are those still indulging in the expression of warlike views, declaring that the object of the dispatch of the battleship squadron is to intimidate Japan. But the rumour that a war is inevitable is wholly disregarded in official circles at Washington.

PROPOSED AMERICAN NAVAL BASE.

Washington, July 7.—America intends to make a proposal for causing Mexico to concede a naval base in Magdalena Bay, Lower California. Mr. Root, the Secretary of State, will pay a visit to Mexico in September, and it is expected that the scheme will be accomplished on that occasion.

(FROM THE "TOKYO ASAHI.")

AMERICAN NAVAL MOVEMENT.

London, July 8.—According to a New York telegram, the *World* strongly opposes the scheme of dispatching warships to the Pacific, declaring that it is a great blunder on the part of the authorities to take any action likely to be misunderstood as a naval demonstration against Japan.

(FROM THE "JAPAN ADVERTISER.")

U.S. AND JAPAN.

New York, July 8.—Baron Komura, Japanese Ambassador to St. James's, in response to a request for an opinion on the latest development in the situation, as regards the dispatch of a battleship squadron to the Pacific, has cabled to the effect that the inferences to be drawn from the movement are entirely unimportant, and that the alarmist reports are simply and solely a newspaper sensation.