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DARING DEEDS BY TWO MEN OF ADVENTURE.

One Purloined a Battleship and the Other Did About Everything Else--Operations Carried Them Over Many Seas and Three Continents.

The first fire of a new army has been lighted; the world has a new fighting force of "The Lost Legion." The Legion of Frontiersmen, says the London Sketch, have made their first bivouac, not, indeed, as they would have wished it, under a sky reddened by the glare of battle, but that they might notify in time of peace that they will be ready in time of strife. They are becoming an arm of imperial defence, and they aim at being the intelligence branch of the service when the god of war calls for sacrifice. They represent the true frontiersmen, men who have worked, hunted or fought in wild countries or at sea, the brotherhood of the camps, Guerilla tactics are second nature to them; and so it is that they will act as guides, scouts, pioneers and mobile forces for raiding. Wherever their numbers are sufficient they will have a command.

Typical of all are their founder and honorary secretary, Frontiersman Roger Pocock and the London correspondent, Mr. De Hora. Both are keen adventurers--we use the word in its older sense, deprecating the fashion that has distorted the term into meaning some form of skunk. Frontiersman Pocock has been many things. He was clerk in the cable service, a laborer on a fruit farm and a general farm in Ontario, insurance clerk, survey hand, "boots" in a hotel or navies, milkman's book-keeper, log hauler, railroad navvy, book agent, peddler of photographs, dairyman and trooper in the Northwest police--all in two years. While trooper he took part in the forced march of forty-two miles a day for seven days from Regina to Prince Albert, in a vain endeavor to prevent the Northwest rebellion; but it was not his fortune to finish, save under the R.D. Cross. Half way he was frozen and so was invalided with a pension.

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UNITED STATES AND JAPAN IN NEXT GREAT STRUGGLE.

The capture of Japanese spies, taking photographs of the fortifications at Newport, last week, has set army, navy and financial circles as well, talking of the startling prophecy made at the close of the war in the far East by an influential Russian magazine. "The next great war," ran the Russian prophecy, "will be between the United States and Japan."

Two months ago the agents of the American government, up in the frozen north, shot down the Japanese mail pouches; then came the Newport incident.

BECAME RIVALS.

Not many years ago the legions of Uncle Sam swept back to inglorious defeat the soldiers of old Castile. Then, when they saw that all hope of preserving their empire was lost, the Spaniards sued for peace and gave into the possession of the United States the Philippine Islands.

Soon afterwards the Japs found themselves engaged in a war with the Russian bear and they seized several provinces on the mainland as trophies to their triumphal arms.

Across the waters that wash the shores of Japan, and a little to the south, in the Philippine Islands, they are but a day's sail from the land of the Mikado and there is no portion of the world more lovely to his eyes.

While the great nations of Europe were sleeping in contentment on their arms and were each watching the other like bull dogs in leash, the little yellow man of the east was becoming powerful, and emissaries from their armies had the entire into some of the most exclusive military clubs on the continent and in this country.

Their little black eyes watched intently how the armies were mobilized and drilled and they sent lengthy despatches to their native land of all they saw. Their armies became wonderful machines and after the Russian war the nations of the world awoke with a shock. Another world power was born almost in a day. Henceforth the Japs would have to be dealt with in matters of international importance.

WATCHING THE PLAY.

About this time the statesmen of the world over and the great bankers of Europe and the United States, who, after all, supply the wherewithal to make war possible, began to look about them so as to fortify if possible what the next move on the international checker board would be. They had just witnessed the dawn of new eras in regard to two great powers. The Japs had extended their dominions in eastern Europe and the United States had acquired posses-

sions in the far east. Both were growing in power, glorying in the strength of their recent conquests, and both had by a strange fatality become neighbors.

Then the statesmen saw something else. If Japan were to become bigger she would naturally like to become the possessor of the Philippines. These islands then would likely become the next bone of contention, and now the diplomatic world is awaiting to see if its judgment will prove correct.

Although to the casual observer, unskilled in the ways of nations, all seems as merry as a wedding bell, the secret agents of the two governments are hard at work and the military strength of the leaders of the front are constantly compared, each by the other. There is nothing of any importance pertaining to the military life of this country that is not called the land of perch closeness.

RECORDS CAREFULLY KEPT.

And within the confines of the war office at Tokio are rooms whose thresholds are crossed only by the select. Here little yellow men who have become bent and aged in the service and whose integrity is beyond dispute are trained to speak in whispers and to pore over papers and maps of vital interest.

These men know the secrets of nations and their lips are sealed. Each one in his own heart, fondly cherishes the new ideal set up by their conquering armies.

They are constantly receiving missives from far over the seas which are catalogued and filed away to be opened "in case of war only."

And it is feared at Washington that more maps and diagrams of the United States fortresses find their way into the hands of the Japanese spies than to those of any other nation.

HUSTLE THEM AWAY.

But America is not resting on its former glory by any means. Constant preparations are being made and the Flower Kingdom is closely watched. Many of their spies are known and are constantly given passports and hustled from the country. These have increased at an alarming rate during the past year so that now the most strenuous efforts are being made to locate them and to drive them away.

When the officials of this nation watched the suspects last week they were introduced to a new method of obtaining photographs of fortresses. Attention was first attracted to them by their suspicious movements in seeking the highest points of land

whose business it was to capture food supplies, and in the National Scouts. His most recent expedition was up the west coast of Greenland.

Mr. De Hora, the well known mining engineer, who was born on a stock ranch in California and brought up as a cowboy, has a unique record in that at the early age of three and twenty he stole a battleship. He had been before the mast, peering in the south seas, and, scenting further adventure, he threw his lot with a revolutionary leader, and, aided by a boat's crew speedily gathered together, contrived to steal the war vessel Husear from Peru.

In her he committed piracy on the high seas by stopping a British tramp steamer, with the result that he had to fight H. M. S. Shah. He was badly beaten, but escaped only to find it necessary to surrender to the ruling government. His next expedition, made in partnership with the former revolutionary leader, ended in the discovery of the famous Macchellan treasure--\$2,000,000 in a supple Spanish galleon of the seventeenth century--spoils promptly confiscated by a schooner sent by the Argentine government, whose capital Mr. De Hora entered a little later at the head of three hundred cowboys from the Rio Negro. It was he also who led Colonel North's exploring expedition from Brazil to Ecuador. Thus adventure followed adventure until the South African war broke out. At that time he was acting as mining engineer in Johannesburg, and, seeing the state the city was likely to get into, he raised a corps of six hundred neutrals to fight as armed police. This was their work until the arrival of Lord Roberts, when their organization formerly handled over the place to the care of Captain Walter Kirton, also by the way, of the London command surely a difficult record to eclipse.

They passed from one elevation to another, and every now and then one of their number would reach up under his arms and appear to manipulate something through the arm holes of his vest. At first sight he appeared to be a deep-chested man, although he was of normally light build.

This fact too attracted attention, and on closer observation he appeared to have a camera concealed under hiswaistcoat, while his chest was padded to make his general aspect appear somewhat normal.

VEST BUTTON A LENS.

One of the buttons of his vest glinted brightly in the sun and on close inspection it was found to be the lens of a concealed camera.

If in the course of events war should come the United States would not need to fear Japan. A comparison of the relative strength of the armies and navies of both nations shows that Japan is little more than half as powerful as the republic.

Their army is much bigger on a peace footing and comprises some 400,000 men exclusive of officers, while their sailors are numerically equal to those of the United States.

The standing army of this nation comprises only 100,000 men in times of peace, but their war footing can easily total between 5,000,000 or 6,000,000 men against 8,200,000 for Japan.

In regard to naval vessels this nation leads the kingdom of the east by nearly twice as many heavily armed vessels, while their efficiency is far better than those of Japan.

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