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ITALIAN CRUISER VISITS ESQUIMALT

UMBRIA WILL SPEND SEVERAL DAYS IN PORT

Italy Follows Lead of Great Britain in the Matter of Concentrating Fleet.

After an exceedingly pleasant passage from San Francisco the third-class Italian cruiser Umbria arrived at Esquimalt last evening, anchoring at the buoy where Victorians have been accustomed to see H. M. Bonaventure. She will remain here for several days. No definite date has been decided upon for her departure, as there are some repairs, such as painting, etc., which must be attended to before she continues her cruise of the North Pacific coast. The Umbria resembles H. M. S. Bonaventure to a considerable extent, although not as large and being manned by a smaller crew. She has a total complement of 280. She has a displacement of 2,500 tons, and is equipped with two 6-inch guns, eight 4½-inch guns, and two 3-inch guns. She has a landing gun and two maxims. She is fitted up in a most modern manner. A wireless telegraph apparatus is noticeable, while the ship's launch and being manned by a smaller crew give the harbor an appearance of activity that has been lacking since the British vessels were removed some months ago.

The Umbria has twenty officers, and is commanded by Captain Corsi Comillo. Second in command is Capt. de Luca Carlo, while the lieutenants, sub-lieutenants and chiefs of different departments follow: Maurizio Guidobaldo, Orichio Mario, Caracoto di Forino Tristano, Raineri Biscia, Albertelli Filippo, Roessler Franz Luigi, Dongo G. Batta, Coda Haffes, Luzzati Alfredo, and Volpe Alfonso.

Capt. Comillo announces that while the ship is in port she will be open to the public from 10 to 6 o'clock in the afternoon. He will be pleased to receive any Victorians who may wish to be shown through the vessel during those hours.

This morning a representative of the Times boarded the Umbria and was received with the utmost courtesy. Capt. Carlo explained that the ship had been away from home about fifteen months. She was making an extensive tour of the Pacific Coast, having already been in these seas since December. About a month was spent in San Francisco. At Esquimalt she was put in the dry-dock and thoroughly renovated.

"Is it true that the Umbria will go into dock at this port?" was asked. The captain replied in the negative. He stated further that the vessel was in every way ready to receive any other ship, and that advantage would be taken of her stay here to apply another coat of paint, that being all that was necessary to make her ready for other long sea voyages. He said, however, that it had been the original intention to dock at Esquimalt, but the decision was altered when the Japanese vessels were discovered at the port mentioned.

Continuing, Capt. Carlo remarked upon the fact that there were no British vessels in port. He supposed that the new regulations introduced by the admiralty had resulted in the recalling of the Esquimalt squadron. Although he acknowledged that the withdrawal of these vessels would probably have a beneficial effect in the vicinity of a commercial point of view, he was of the opinion that the change was entirely justified. Concentration, he said, was most important in modern warfare. It was absolutely necessary to have a strong fleet in the vicinity of a commercial point of view, he was of the opinion that the change was entirely justified.

He went on to point out that the Italian government, impressed with the necessity of concentration of naval forces, had followed the lead of Great Britain to a certain extent. His country, he said, had proceeded without representation on the China coast, while the South American squadron had been reduced to three vessels. Outside of this almost all the warships stationed away from home had been recalled. The entire naval force was being concentrated at Italian ports, so that they would be at hand when their assistance was required for the defence of the nation.

"Of course we have to keep a small fleet stationed in South America," continued Capt. Carlo, "as Italy has more extensive interests there than in any other part of the continent." He then went on to state that in the Argentine Republic there are in the neighborhood of 2,000,000 Italians, while in the city of Buenos Ayres alone 200,000 of his countrymen reside. This was sufficient explanation of the necessity of Italy having war vessels stationed in the neighborhood.

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MILLER MEMORIAL

Monument to Be Erected to Atlin Pioneer—Government Contribution.

The people of Atlin have undertaken to erect a monument in memory of the late Fritz Miller, who died in the north-western city last year. Of the \$748 raised \$500 is to be expended in the erection of a monument and the balance, \$248, is to be applied to a fund to erect an operating room at the Atlin hospital, and is to be called the "Fritz Miller Memorial Operating Ward." The estimated cost of this is \$700, and a committee of the citizens are making an endeavor to raise the balance of \$450. Premier McBride has assured the committee in charge of the work that \$150 will be devoted to it by the province. In the receipt of a letter on the subject the Premier says:

"This amount will be provided for in our estimates for next year and, while I regret my inability to remit the subscription by check, you may feel assured of the money being forthcoming in due course."

THE EARTHQUAKE IN JAPAN.

Latest Reports Place Number of Killed in Hiroshima and Utsunomiya at Six.

Tokio, June 3, 7.30 p.m.—The governor of Hiroshima province telegraphs that the earthquake which took place on June 2nd killed six people, wounded seventy-nine, and destroyed thirty-three houses in Hiroshima and Utsunomiya.

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