

contains the vast amount of detail usually included.

In addition to the foregoing specific value this map is of general interest at present as showing the relation between the United States, its possessions, and the Far East and as including those areas around which present problems in the North Pacific Ocean are centered. It extends from New York and Panama to Singapore and Calcutta, from Alaska and Siberia to the Hawaiian Islands and includes a part of South America and a portion of Australia. Through its lateral center it extends over 180°.

The distinctive feature of the map is that these localities are here pictured in practically their true relation as to distances, areas, and comparative angular direction of coast line. The property of true scale along a great circle tangent to the forty-fifty parallel of north latitude at the central meridian of the map was chosen. This great circle is approximately the shortest distance between San Francisco and Manila, and in close proximity to it lie practically all the important points of interest such as the Panama Canal, Mexico, our Pacific Coast, Alaska, the Philippine Islands, Japan, and the coast of China. This is accomplished through the use of the transverse polyconic projection, which is the regular polyconic or American projection turned from its normal vertical axis to a lateral great circle axis.

THE STEAMER "ALBATROSS"

THE Fisheries Service reports that the steamer *Albatross* has been taken to Woods Hole (Mass.) and on October 29 was there put out of commission, the naval crew being released. This action was made necessary by a lack of sufficient funds to operate the vessel on a scale that would yield results commensurate with the basic cost of maintenance. It is hoped that by another year it may be possible to restore the vessel to active service and assign her to work on fishing grounds on the Atlantic coast awaiting attention.

The *Albatross*, which for nearly forty years has been an important unit of the Bureau

of Fisheries, was the first vessel especially designed for deep-sea exploration and was equipped with the most approved apparatus and appliances for the work. These have been renewed, modified, or extended as the occasion arose. The vessel was built under the supervision of Commander Z. L. Tanner, United States Navy, from designs prepared by the naval architect, Charles W. Copeland. She was launched at Wilmington, Del., in 1882, and, excepting brief interruptions, has been constantly employed until the present time. The fact that after all these years she is now in excellent condition is a tribute to her construction, the quality of the material used, and the care which she has had.

The *Albatross* was engaged in investigations off the Atlantic coast from Newfoundland to the West Indies until 1888, when she was sent through the Straits of Magellan to the west coast, and during the next 30 years was engaged in investigations, surveys, etc., in the Pacific Ocean, particularly in Alaska. During the long period of the fur-seal controversy the *Albatross* formed part of the naval patrol of Bering Sea and was used by the commission created for the investigation of the fur seals. In 1891 the vessel was employed in surveying a cable route to the Hawaiian Islands, in 1899 and 1900 in a voyage to the tropical Pacific and Japan, in 1902 in investigations about the Hawaiian Islands, and from 1907 to 1910 in a comprehensive survey of the fisheries and aquatic resources of the Philippine Islands. In the War with Spain and in the World War the *Albatross* was taken into the naval service, returning to the Atlantic coast in 1917.

MULFORD EXPLORATION IN BOLIVIA

THE latest message received from Dr. Rusby, the director of the Mulford Exploration, was dated August 30 and was written from Huachi on the Bopi River in Bolivia. Dr. Rusby arrived at Huachi on August 23 and he and his party spent some time making collections in the vicinity and making excursions into surrounding territory. During their stay there four members of the party made a trip up the Cochabamba River.