

Way off to the South

Address of Col. Roosevelt on board the "O'Higgins."

In Talcahuano on Friday, the 28th, Mr. Roosevelt expressed a desire to visit the *Huascar*, and on arriving on board this ship, where the gallant captain Arturo Prat died, he recounted the history of the battle of Iquique Bay to his son. With emotion he then addressed the Chilians present: «I feel envious. . . . Happy are the people who have had such grand examples to inspire them to greater duties».

Following this visit to the *Huascar*, the party then went on board the battleship *O'Higgins*, where a banquet was given in honour of Mr. Roosevelt by the Naval Authorities resident in Talcahuano. A toast to the distinguished visitor was given by Admiral Froilan González, and Mr. Roosevelt replied:

«Gentlemen, Admirals and Officers of the Chilean Navy: When I came to Chile, I had the intention, that if it were possible, I would visit the Chilean Navy. During the period I served my country as Assistant Secretary to the Navy of the United States, I contributed in preparing our Navy for war, and studied particularly the History of the Chilean Navy. I also studied the History of the Army, but the Navy had for me much greater interest. I am accustomed to speak as a student of History, and I wish to state

here and now that there does not exist in history a more glorious memory, no greater deed, than that held by your navy. I felt I must see the *Huascar*. I wanted to see this memorable ship, the scene of the greatest and most heroic act of patriotism displayed since the advent of iron ships, and I doubt not that these gallant Chilian officers here present will approve of my reference to the Peruvian Admiral who died so nobly, as I also make to the memory of the brave Chilians who sacrificed their lives there. I have brought to your remembrance the action of Prat and his gallant companions in boarding the enemy's ship, which is one of the greatest deeds in naval history. I must speak in the highest terms of the officers of this Navy, here where you have done and are doing such wonders and I hope you will ever be sufficiently rich as a Nation to be able to obtain the best of material. Not only do I say this in your own interests, but in the interest of the Western Hemisphere, I may even say that in the interest of the civilized world, that Chile should maintain that high naval efficiency which it now possesses. I now wish to express the pleasure I have in meeting here the Chilian officer who piloted the American Fleet through the Magellan Straits. I hope and feel confident that from now onwards the Chilian people and those of the United States will be united with the strongest bonds of friendship and that your Navy and that of the United States will look upon each other as brothers in arms. I raise my glass to toast the prosperity of the Chilian Nation and the Chilian Navy, and that the glories of the future will equal its glories of the past»

Mr. Roosevelt and party left the port of Talcahuano at 1,30 p.m., but before continuing southward, paid a short visit to Concepción, where they were received by the Civil and Military Authorities. Returning to Talcahuano, the party continued their journey south, arriving at Puerto Varas, at 9 a.m. on Saturday, where they were received and attended by the Governor of Llanquihue.

At this port an Argentine deputation consisting of Señor Moreno, Military Attaché of the U. S. to Argentine Republic, Dr. Isidoro Ruíz Moreno and Señor Eduardo Elorde, awaited the party and afterwards accompanied them to Buenos Aires.