

# THE NAVY IS IN FIGHTING TRIM

## Ships, Men and Money Uncle Sam's Strength.

**Congress Authorizes Vast Additions for New Battleships—The Maine to Be Replaced—Marines Also Being Inlisted Under Special Orders—State of War Exists All Along Our South Atlantic Coast—Movements Of Our Warships.**

The navy department has now reason to believe that it has secured the two warships, Amazonas and her sister ship, now building in England for Brazil. It was stated at the cabinet meeting by Secretary Long that the naval attaché at London, Lieutenant Colwell, had almost completed the negotiations for the purchase. So far, however, the final notification from him that his offer has been accepted has not yet reached the navy department.

**Authorizes Three New Ships.**  
Three new battleships of the standard type authorized by the house committee on naval affairs Saturday, and a provision for their construction was inserted in the naval appropriation bill. At the same time, the committee agreed on a maximum price of \$400 per ton for armor plate for our vessels, increased the force of naval marines by 473 men and put matters in fair shape for a decision tomorrow on the location of dry docks, probably four in number, capable of accommodating the largest sized war vessels. The committee was in session practically all day and before the decision on the increase of ships was reached there was a long and interesting discussion. Representative Tate, while favoring an increase, believed two vessels would be ample, and that further expenditure beyond the point of necessity should be avoided. Representative Loudenslager of New Jersey protested that if the strength of the navy was to be increased at all it should be to the extent of three new vessels, built and armed to meet any vessel afloat.

**Hawley Wants One Cruiser.**  
Representative Hawley of Texas moved that a cruiser be substituted for one of the battleships, but subsequently withdrew the motion. When the vote was taken there was but one dissenting voice. Mr. Tate insisted that two battleships would

ant of the marine corps, and to each of the bureau chiefs of the navy department: "Sir—Under the emergency appropriation of \$50,000,000 made Wednesday you will incur no expense or liability except after written statements and estimate made by you and approved by the president and secretary, all in writing. A special record must be kept of every such requisition. If any such liability or expense has been incurred by you by oral direction make such written statement and estimate and submit it at once for such approval.

"By order of the president,  
Very respectfully,  
JOHN D. LONG, Sec'y.

**Big Item for Carnegie.**  
Lieutenant Stone, representative of the Carnegie Steel Company, was at the navy department in conference with the officials respecting the naval work in progress.

The torpedo flotilla at Key West will soon be re-enforced by two fine boats, which have been under repairs. The Winslow sailed this morning for Charleston for Key West and the Foote from Norfolk for the same.

The commandant of the Mare Island navy yard reported that the cruiser Mouchon had sailed with her cargo of ammunition, which she will tranship at Honolulu to the Baltimore for the Asiatic squadron. The naval officers who are endeavoring to effect the purchase of ships abroad have encountered an obstacle that promises to give some trouble. This is found in the difference between the calibers of the guns mounted on foreign built ships and the United States navy standards. Not only do these guns differ in caliber from our own in most cases, but as they are almost all designed for the use of smokeless powder their combustion chambers are too small to use the ordinary brown powder with which the American navy is still supplied.

**Must Buy Powder Abroad.**  
This obstacle is serious, but not insurmountable. It will require the procurement in Europe of a large quantity of ammunition in special sizes for these ships, as it would require a good deal of time for our domestic ammunition makers to change their plants and make the special sizes. Commander William H. Emery has volunteered to command the auxiliary cruiser St. Louis in the event of that vessel's impressment into the naval service, and he will be ordered to join her before her departure from New York next Wednesday, in a capacity similar to that which caused Commander Brownson to sail on the St. Paul. Commander Emery has selected as his immediate staff Lieutenant Nathan Sargent as executive officer, at present recorder of the board of inspection and survey of the navy department, and Lieutenant Frank F. Fletcher

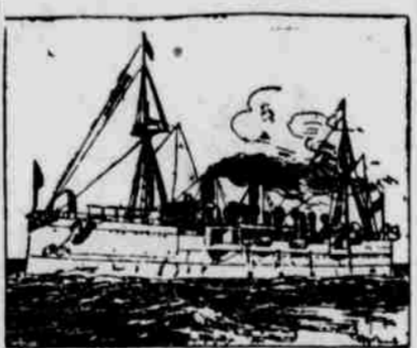
this time begun work on several vessels of the Thornycraft type for use here. Acting upon suggestions received in Washington, however, I have consulted members of three or four shipbuilding concerns in this country relative to the quick construction of vessels of the Thornycraft type. I have been assured by them that, with the detailed working plans of the vessels in their possession and under an ordinary commercial contract—that is, a contract free from all unnecessary red tape—they could collectively complete, by working night and day, a fleet of ten such vessels within seven months. The representative of one firm assured me that it could send out the first vessel within six months. I am authorized by cable by the Thornycraft company to offer to dispose of complete plans of the Thornycraft vessel to this government at practically a moment's notice. The vessels are 22 feet



THE Y PERANGA.  
(One of the New Warships Slated for Purchase by the United States.)

long and 275 tons displacement, mounting four six-pounders and one thirteen-pounder, and equal to thirty knots. They are considered the most successful type of torpedo boat destroyers ever constructed. England has already about sixty of them and others building and Thornycraft & Co. are constructing a number of them for Germany and Japan. The plans of this type of vessel can be obtained from the Cheswick yards within three days, and I have every reason to believe that this government will order them."

**A Magnetic Island.**  
A most phenomenal island is that of Bornholm, in the Baltic, belonging to the kingdom of Denmark. It is famous for its geological peculiarities, consisting as it does almost entirely of magnetite, and its magnetic influence is not only very well known to the navigators of those waters, but also much feared by them, on account of its influence on the magnetic needles, which make the steering of a ship correctly a matter of much difficulty. In fact, this influence is felt even at a distance of miles, and so palpably that, on the island being sighted by mariners on the Baltic, they at once discontinue steering their course by the needle, and turn, instead, to the well-known lighthouses and other holds to direct their craft. Between Bornholm and the mainland there is also a bank of rock under water, which is very dangerous to navigation, and because of its being constantly sub-



THE CRUISER PHILADELPHIA.  
(Ordered to Join the South Atlantic Squadron—The Swiftest Armored Vessel in the World.)

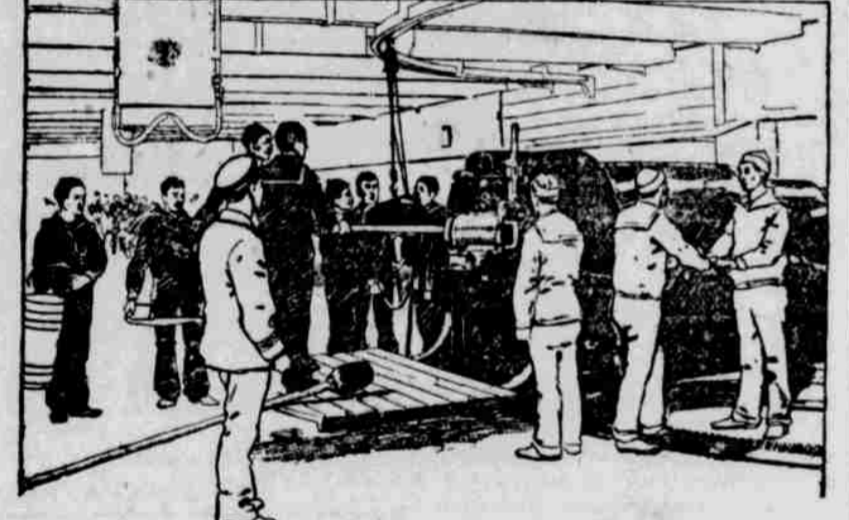
merged, vessels have been frequently wrecked at that point. The peculiar fact in this case is that the magnetic influence of this ore bank is so powerful that a magnetic needle suspended freely in a boat over the bank will point down, and, if not disturbed, will remain in a perfectly perpendicular line.

**WHAT MAY HAPPEN.**



LOWERING A WOUNDED MAN TO THE SICK BAY ON A MAN-OF-WAR

**THE ORDER NOW OFTEN HEARD ON OUR WARSHIPS.**



"SPONGE AND LOAD"—A CHARGE OF THIS KIND WHEN PROPERLY DIRECTED WILL BLOW UP ANY WARSHIP.

be sufficient to meet present needs. The new warships provided for will be of the fleet pattern and will be ready, doubtless, before they can be placed in commission.

**One Will Be Named the Maine.**  
One of them, the committee decided, should bear the name of the ill-fated Maine. The appropriation for their construction was not fixed, being referred to the subcommittee on appropriations, which will report to the full committee tomorrow. The cost, it is expected, will be about \$5,000,000 each, though for the fiscal year covered in the bill the amount of expenditure may not exceed \$2,000,000 each. An important question was raised as to whether the expenditures for the new ships should be defrayed out of the \$50,000,000 emergency bill, but this subject was passed over.

The committee also agreed on a provision authorizing the secretary of the navy to purchase armor plate, by contract or otherwise, at a cost of not exceeding \$400 per ton. This was agreed to, however, only on the express proviso that this item include the nickel used in the armor, for which a large outside percentage heretofore has been paid by the government. This limit of armor contract price has been generally expected and, with the exception of the insertion of the proviso as to nickel, met with little opposition in the discussion.

**Increase Number of Marines.**  
One of the most important features of the work on the bill was an agreement on an appropriation of \$135,000 for outfitting, rationing and uniforming 473 additional marines. This increase in the naval force was made the subject of a special and urgent request sent to the house after the submission of the regular recommendations. The question of establishment of new dry docks went over for action tomorrow. It was thoroughly discussed today, and the outlook is that four new dry docks would be authorized, two on the Atlantic coast, one on the Pacific coast, and another on the Gulf. If the present expectations are materialized to-morrow these docks will be authorized to be constructed at Boston, Mass., Algiers, New Orleans, Mare Island, Cal., and League Island, Philadelphia.

**Carries an Enormous Total.**  
With the amounts to be paid for dry docks and for armor plate in the aggregate not yet determined that bill as it stands carries in all something like \$38,400,000, which, however, will be largely augmented by the other items. Rapid progress has been made with the bill, and it is likely it will be in shape to report to the house Monday or Tuesday.

**Tells All to Practice Economy.**  
Secretary Long has determined that there shall be no wasteful extravagance in his department in the expenditure of the funds so generously provided by congress, and to this end he has addressed the following letter to the assistant secretary of the navy, the colonel command-

**Frontier Currency.**

A Western paper tells a story of an epoch in the history of the Montana mining camps when there was no money or lawful currency of any kind in the camps, nor any credit to base a private circulation on, but when the extremely high price of eatables suggested and at the same time supplied the want of a circulating medium. One man who continues to live in that region tells of the time when he bought a box of matches with a watermelon, and received as change two muskmelons. Another paid for a pair of suspenders with turnips, and got a couple of carrots back with his purchase. At one time the first man accepted an invitation to visit a friend and go to a party with him. After seeing his friend go through the unusual preparation of blacking his boots and putting on a collar—for it was to be a very "high-toned" affair—he was surprised to see him go to a potato-bin and carefully select a dozen nice potatoes and put them into his pocket. No sooner had the two men arrived at the hall where the party was to take place than his host handed over his potatoes for an entrance ticket; and what was still more surprising, the doorkeeper, after the close of the party, gave him two onions as "change," to take home!

**His Wardrobe Carefully Selected.**

American and English swells have long vied with each other as to the variety and number of their suits of clothes. We have never heard that Parisian swells entered into the competition. Light is thrown on the subject through Le Figaro. A well-known member of the Jockey club was summoned as a witness in a case in court. He was ordered to appear at 10 o'clock in the morning. As he did not come, an officer was sent to look him up. The truth is that the poor fellow had no clothes in which he could appear before the court. His entire wardrobe consisted of sixteen sets of pajamas and a dozen dress suits. It seems the man never got up until 4 o'clock in the afternoon, retiring fourteen hours later. He had no use for clothing beyond evening dress and the pajamas.

**Knight and Hotelkeeper.**

The king of Wurtemberg may perhaps be said to be the only Knight of the Garter who is a hotelkeeper as well as a monarch. This has long been a tradition in his family, but not till lately was it discovered by the rulers of the beautiful little German kingdom how profitable innkeeping can become. When Peter the Great was traveling incognito through Europe he refused to stop anywhere but at an inn. To circumvent this whim the king of Wurtemberg put a tavern sign outside one of the royal palaces, and, dressed as an innkeeper, himself welcomed the czar. This royal personage's descendant now owns two large hotels, from which he is said to derive a revenue of \$60,000 a year.—Boston Transcript.

**Proportion of Episcopalians.**

Throughout the United States there is one communicant of the Episcopal church for each 94 of the population. The church population is densest in the diocese of Washington, where every twenty-second person is a churchman; it is sparsest in the jurisdiction of Oklahoma, where each churchman is surrounded by 674 persons. Richmond heads the list of cities of 50,000 population and over with one churchman for each 29 of its inhabitants. Allegheny brings up the rear with one to 197. Of the great cities Philadelphia has one to 27, New York one to 32, Baltimore one to 33, Brooklyn one to 34, Buffalo one to 44, Boston one to 52, Pittsburg one to 62, Chicago one to 85, St. Louis one to 94.

**Fish Tabooed by Indians.**

The Navajo, Apache and other Indian tribes of the far southwest will not eat fish, nor have anything to do with articles made in the shape of fish. The "taboo" with the Navajo extends to all things connected with water. A probable reason why no more children of these tribes are sent east to be educated is a fear that they might be required to overcome this cherished "taboo" superstition, which is as firmly rooted as any religion.

**The Bride's Perplexity.**

May—What! Frowning on your wedding day? Fay—I'm in a quandary. If I go to the altar smiling people will say I'm simply crazy to get Charlie, and if I look solemn they'll say I already regret the step. What shall I do?—Philadelphia Record.

**Too Bad.**

Leading Tragic Man—"Did you see how I paralyzed the audience in the death scene? By George, they were crying all over the house!" Stage Manager—"Yes, they knew you weren't really dead."—Tit-Bits.

**Something Unusual.**

Biggs—I wonder what's wrong with Knox. Diggs—Nothing that I know of; why? Biggs—I told him I was suffering from a terrible cold the other day and he never suggested a remedy for it.

**Valuable Walnut Tree.**

Col. Tom Middleton of Shelbyville, Ky., has sold a single walnut tree for \$600. It is of the bird's-eye variety and will be shipped to Germany to be used in making furniture for royalty.

**She Never Tried It.**

Mr. Wabash—Are you fond of repar-ture, Miss Olive? Miss Olive (of St. Louis)—I don't believe I ever drank any of it. We always use "Oolong."

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