

A SHIP IN ACTION.

WHAT TAKES PLACE ON BOARD IN A FIGHT.

Stirring Scenes on Deck and Below—On the Call to Quarters Every Man Moves to His Own Post as by Clockwork—A Terrible Moment.

Few people outside the naval service know just how a war vessel goes into a fight. To put a battleship like the Iowa or Indiana in thorough readiness for action ordinarily requires about two hours, though, of course, it can be done in much less time in case of urgency. There is one thing that makes it a



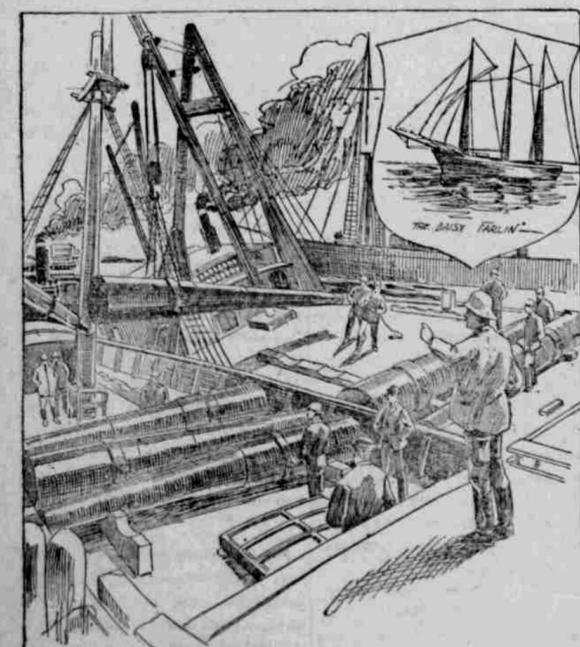
MAXIM RAPID-FIRE RIFLE.
(The War Department Has Just Ordered 1,000 of These Terrible Engines of Death and Destruction.) comparatively simple and orderly task. On board a fighting vessel every man has a certain assigned post and a certain task laid out for him with which he is perfectly familiar. This holds true from the captain himself down to the little coolies who wait on table for the different messes. When the signal is sounded it brings every man to his place, and long familiarity makes the work, so involved and complicated to the eyes of an outsider, a mere matter of routine.

If a ship engages an enemy unexpectedly, so that there is not the usual time for preparation, the call to quarters is sounded immediately and the men take their places in divisions. In this case each division attends to a part of the work of clearing the ship, but ordinarily the first signal is, "Clear for action." At the boatswain's whistle and the verbal command the men move to their (In Command of Atlantic Squadron.) positions, those whose places are on deck forming in squads under the direction of the different officers. The captain takes his place on the bridge. Later, when the battle begins, he will go into the protected conning tower, through the narrow slits of which he can watch everything that takes place on deck and the movements of the enemy as well. But for the present, while the preparations are being made, he must decide the general plan of action, how the guns are to be used, and the class and nature of projectile on which he will depend.

All Decks Cleared.
Near the captain stands the navigator, who will have charge of the handling of the ship during the engagement, the signal officer and the various aids. First of all, the decks and work-



ON THE GUN DECK.
ing spaces are cleared. The spars, rigging and boats are secured. Everything movable that will not be needed in charge of the little platform high up in the mainmast, haul up arms and ammunition and make everything ready in their lofty quarters, even to filling the fire buckets with which to put out a blaze should one be started

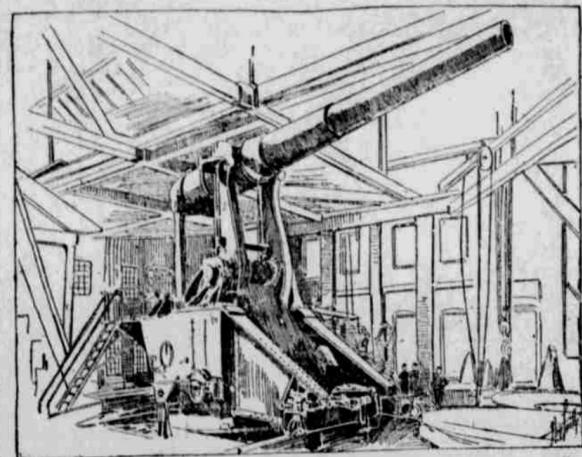


LOADING BIG GUNS ON SCHOONER TO BE TAKEN TO DRY TORTUGAS.

up aloft. The carpenter, under the direction of the navigator, sees to the during the engagement is firmly lashed into place, where it will not interfere with the work. The topmen, who are removal of awning stanchions, hatch walls and every light object that is not essential to the management of the ship. The chronometers and other delicate instruments are carefully gathered up and laid away below, to save them from destruction by concussion. The torpedo division gets out its apparatus for sending torpedoes, and spreads the intercepting nets over the ship's sides, where they can be quickly lowered if need be.

Below the activity is equally great. The engine fires are started up and steam is made as fast as possible, for a modern battleship is intended to go into action under a full head of steam. The steam and bilge pumps are rigged and the magazine squads stands to its post, but the magazines are not unlocked until the signal for action. The keys, however, are delivered to the officers of the powder division by the captain at the first signal.

When the ship is cleared the call to quarters is given and the men take their places in divisions. The gun squads stand to their guns and make them ready for use. The hatches, except those that will be used, are covered with gratings and tarpaulins, the

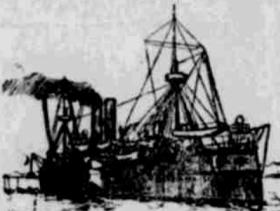


NEW STYLE DISAPPEARING GUN.

carpenter collects his men and with the armorer stands ready to repair any damage that may be made by the enemy's fire or the recoil of the ship's cannon. A man with a head line is placed at the well and during the fight will make frequent soundings to discover if the vessel is injured below the water line. The hose squad is placed in charge of the fire apparatus, ready for instant service. Chemical fire extinguishers are used on all the United States warships now, and hand grenades are placed in every quarter of the ship. Every precaution is taken to secure the instant stamping out of fire should it start in or near the magazines.

The "Bull Doctor."
Down in the sick bay the head surgeon, or "bull doctor," has been directing the laying out of cots, instruments and bandages. One hatchway, as near amidships as possible, is always left open for the passing down of wounded men. The surgeon may have no call on his services, but the rule in every quarter of a battleship is, "Be prepared for the worst, and hope for the best." When everything is ready the officers move to their stations. If the ship is a monitor the battle hatches are closed, and the men at last hear the final command for which they have been impatiently waiting—"Action!" At that moment, the doors of the magazine are opened, and the men who form the different chains of scuttles begin to pass the cartridge cases up to the deck. The delivery of ammunition is in charge of the gunner. In modern naval fortunes the gunner is not, as many landlubbers suppose, the man who fires the cannon. He is a warrant officer, and his position is a most responsible one in time of action, for he must see to the prompt and steady delivery of cartridges, shells

and projectiles to all the guns. The chief gunner takes his position on the berth deck, where he can note the progress of the work. His chief assistant is below the main magazine superintending the handling out of powder, and a quarter gunner is in charge of each of the other magazines and of the delivery on deck. The charges are passed up from the



THE BATTLESHIP MAINE. (A Bill Has Been Introduced Into Congress Authorizing the Building of a New Battleship to Be Known as the Maine.)

magazine in wooden cases, which are painted black, with the size of caliber and charge painted in large white letters on the side. They are passed out of the magazine to a man who sends them up to the lower deck. Then they are passed through a slit in the maga-

zine screen—a heavy canvas curtain which is intended to prevent the possibility of sparks reaching to the powder stores. From this screen carriers take the boxes to the nearest powder scuttle, where they are passed up to the gun deck and thence to the cannon themselves. For moving ammunition



WORKING THE RAPID-FIRE GUN FROM THE CONNING TOWER. Various mechanical appliances, including electricity, have come into use.

The Kaiser as a Chemist.
The London correspondent of the Birmingham Post learns from Berlin that the German emperor has again been experimenting privately with a new explosive, which he claims to have invented and which he proposes to call "Rexite." Eighteen months ago it was reported that the kaiser had just completed a series of experiments upon which he had been engaged, but several important difficulties subsequently presented themselves in the process of manufacture. These, however, are now stated to have been overcome.

No Need to Hurry.
A pleasant looking, stylishly dressed old lady was boarding a car in New York, and the "smart Alex" conductor shouted in her ear: "Hurry up there! Step lively! Be quick!" He looked as if he were on the point of pushing her bodily inside the car, when, to his great surprise, she stopped short, and, looking him full in the face, said: "Young man, it is not worth while to be in such a hurry. You'll get to hell soon enough."

Ostrich Farm in Texas.
T. A. Cockburn, one of the proprietors of two large ostrich farms in southern California, one at South Pasadena and one at Norwalk, has gone to San Antonio, Tex., for the purpose of establishing an ostrich farm at that place. The birds with which to stock the Texas farm will be shipped from Norwalk.

The shorter a man is in his accounts the longer it takes to find him.

THE MARCH 4TH EDITION OF THE AMERICAN
CONTAINS A COMPLETE REPORT OF
THE SALINA CLEWETT CASE
AGAINST
THE HOUSE OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD,
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THE Daily Newspapers have not dared to publish the proceedings in this celebrated case, which has been on trial in the St. Paul Courts for some weeks, but THE AMERICAN will give its readers a full report made up from the Court Records. Everybody should read it.

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SHERIFF'S SALE.—By virtue of an order of sale issued out of the district court for Douglas county, Nebraska, and to me directed, I will, on the 12th day of April, A. D. 1898, at ten o'clock A. M. of said day, at the EAST front door of the county court house, in the city of Omaha, Douglas county, Nebraska, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash the property described in said order of sale as follows to-wit:

Lot four (4) in block 134, and lot five (5) in block 164 of the Original Plat of the city of Omaha, as surveyed, platted and recorded, all situated in Douglas county, state of Nebraska.

Said property to be sold to satisfy Walter E. Keeler, plaintiff herein, the sums as follows, to-wit:

On lot 4 in block 134, above described, the sum of \$1,875.00, together with an attorney's fee of \$189.70;

On lot 5 in block 164, above described, the sum of \$675.00, together with an attorney's fee of \$67.50;

Which said amounts according to the judgment of the district court bear interest at the rate of ten per cent. per annum from September 28th, 1896, and are first lien upon said property.

To satisfy the further sum of three hundred and nineteen and 12-100 (\$319.12) dollars costs herein, together with accruing costs according to a judgment rendered by the district court of said Douglas county, at its September term, A. D. 1896, in a certain action then and there pending, wherein Walter E. Keeler is plaintiff and Phoebe Rebecca Elizabeth Elwine Linton and Adolphus Fredrick Linton, her husband and John Morris, William Morris and Frank Crisp, co-partners doing business as Ashurst, Morris, Crisp & Company, John Whittaker Cooper and William Isaac Shard are defendants.

Omaha, Nebraska, March 11th, 1897.
JOHN W. McDONALD,
Sheriff of Douglas County, Nebraska.
W. A. Saunders, Attorney.
Keeler vs. Linton, et al.
Doc. 55; No. 173.
Ex-Doc. 1; Page 96. 3-11-97

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