BRITISH FIRST LINE FLEET IS READY

Correspondent Describes Visit to the Great Modern Armada in the North Sea.

BATTLE CRUISERS HOLD HONORS

SOMEWHERE IN THE NORTH SEA. Feb. 11 .- (Via London.)-Great Britain's first line offensive fleet, an incomparable combination of speed and gunpower, ready for instant action, was inspected yesterday by a party of French and American correspondents and a representative of the Associated Press was permitted to view from the bridge of a torpedo boat the naval unit which is expected to mee! the first shock of a German attack In the fleet were virtually all the veteran fighting craft, which have been in action in this war, but they showed few scars, with the exception of an occasional dent in their armor. The pride of place was held by battle cruisers which in engagements from the Falkland Isles to the Dardanelles have born the brunt of the sea fighting.

Unpopular with officers and men be fore the war because they were con-stantly coaling and never more than cautiously praised by the proponents of the superdreadpaught policy, these huge fighting machines hold the premier posttion in the British navy, in which war-ship speed is now regarded as the first and most important principle of naval strategy.

Eyes of the Fleet.

The correspondents left the neval base under a sunny sky and on reaching the outlying patrol of torpedo hosts found the water covered with a light haze. There was no sea running. As the aunch with the visitors on board turned toward the line of battle cruisers against the horizon they could see the "eyes" of the fleet, in the form of a few prowling destroyers, which keep up incessant watch, not only to protect their mighty sisters from submarine attack, but to catch the first view of any adventure ome German warship which might poke its nose into the open North Sea.

Looming through the mist could be seen the giant tripod masts, which identified the fleet as including the very lat-est type of battle cruisers, and soon the launch was at the foot of the boarding ested in the work despite the uncomladder of a huge battle cruiser which fortable conditions under which their got its haptism of fire at Helgoland patrol work in the North Sea is done.

THE BEE: OMAHA, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1916.





by the officers accompanying the party as a third line unit or balt to entire the German fleet into the North Sea.

Personel Fli and Eager. The personnel of the whole fleet seemed

and a half years.

Bight, and later bors an honorable share The battle cruiser. Princess Royal, in the Dogger Bank action. which was visited by the party had only which was visited by the party, had only

an oce nal flash through the darken-The party then lunched as guests of the ing mist as signals were exchanged be-

divisional rear admiral, who was using the mist as signals were tween various divisions. taken on board the cruiser Ldon, which PRESIDENT'S FAITH Dogger Bank battle. With the exception of a dent in its forward turret armor and a similar poar just above the water line this show vessel of the British navy displays little sign of the terrific ham-mering it got when three Greman battle cruisers concentrated their fire on 11.

Carefully mounted in the companion way is an eleven-inch unexploded shell which the Seydlite huried through the Lion s armor below the water line.

No evidence has ever been found to justify the story that the Lion was torpedged, but its officers and crew ars still marveling at the slight harm done ber vital parts by the rain of heavy

No sign was left of the twelve-inch shell which blew in the bulkhead of the admiral's quarters after going through occupying the place of honor among the

Even the captain's bath tub which was that it will be accompanied by a regular hurisd overboard by the explosion of an army reserve act designed to build up and maintain a force more than equal in from the Bluecher, has been replaced. The engine rooms of the Lion showed no sign of the ship ever having been in

of a year's training undoubtedly will be claring: The shell which did the most damage among the plans proposed to accomplish did not penetrate the armor casing of the engine room, but dented it in so for this end.

that salt water got into a broken feed pipe, This reduced its speed from twenty-seven to sighteen knots and forced it to withdraw from the battle, in which any vessel speeding less than twentyfive knots had no chance of keeping the range of the ficeing Germans.

The tripod masts, with the control ridge and the crows' next had not been subjected to a severe trial, as the secondary batteries of the German ships never had been within range and the

big guns devoted their attention to the re vital parts of the ship.

Party Visits the Tiger.

A torpede boat picked up a portion chairman of the senate committee desired of the party from the Lion and the refrom the almost equally cele- complete reorganization of the army as brated Tiger, which looked like a newly suggested by the plan of 1912. Secretary sioned ship, despits the many Garrison, however, presented a series of times it was reported to have been bills designed to strengthen what he con-

The oil burning torpeds boat tere along army and beld that three should be of twenty-four, whose fate is unknown. the battle cruisers in neacted to be followed gradually by other bills to carry out the full plan. pect to meet the German fleet.

Beyond the battle cruisers a long line authority tonight that the house would be of light cruisers lost itself in the fog. willing to accept the senates regular me of these vessels are veterans and army plan even on a basis of 300,000 men show signs of the rough patrol work with the colors, provided the National they are called upon constantly to do, Guard federalization plans went through. but many are newly commissioned and ve yot to wear the scars of service, ed, now the fetish of the navy, reached the senith with these light cruisers. Any of them could easily overul the fastest liner so far built.

Beyond the light cruisers was a great flotilla of colliers constantly feeding the hungry strokeholds of the battle cruisers, which even at anchor keep up a full head of aleam, as their turbines st he rested but never allowed to grow

Resistened about the first were several destroyer squadron, with light cruiser """ers and merchant ships as parents. After sweeping around the destroyers, the torpedo boat headed toward a pre-dreadwought, looking formidable enough to the layman, but lightly referred to. Fhone your Want Ads to The Bee.

IN CONGRESS BRINGS **APPRECIATION YOTE**

(Coutluued from Page One.)

tem for the guard and for a standardized ethod of recruiting to fill up the wastage of regiments sent to the front. Provision also will be made under which

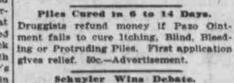
the quota of troops to be furnished by each state and the proportions of artillery, cavalry, engineers, signal corps and other special service troops would be mined by the War department. Special federal appropriations would be proposed for the maintenance of three troops.

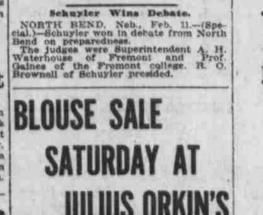
Not So Well Crystalland. The senate committee is not so well erystalized. It is indicated, however, that the deck, except the casing and cap its legislation for the regular army will include substantially all of the plans of the war college as to organisation and

numbers to the force with the colors. Short enlistments with the colors and the discharge into the reserve of any man found efficient by his officers at the end

would provide a force with the colors of neutral ports." approximately 200,000 men.

tefuse substitutes. next & Howne, Bloomfield, N. J. 15-85





Where They Disagree. It was over this plan that Secretary Garison and Senator Chamberlain came into sharp disagreement last year. The