

# MAYOR'S WIFE NAMES LAND BATTLESHIP

## Big Crowd in Union Square Sees Recruiting Headquarters Dedicated.

Surrounded by a group of naval officers and with the eyes of thousands of spectators upon her, Mrs. John Purroy Mitchel, wife of the Mayor, named at Union Square yesterday the first land battleship ever "launched" in this country, the *Recruit*, dedicated to the purpose of stimulating enlistments in the navy and Marine Corps.

From today on the ship becomes a central recruiting station with a full staff of officers on board qualified to examine and enlist applicants. It is built of wood on a model of a modern dreadnought, 200 feet long and forty feet in beam. Being fully supplied with equipment that belongs to an armed vessel, the *Recruit* will not only offer ample quarters to the navy and Marine Corps for recruiting, but will also serve some of the purposes of a training ship.

At 12:30 P. M., after Rear Admiral Usher of the Brooklyn Navy Yard and officers of the navy and Marine Corps had come aboard, Mrs. Mitchel, standing on the forward deck, swung a bottle of champagne across the stanchion with these words:

"I christen thee *Recruit*."

When the bottle broke a considerable portion of its contents descended upon Mrs. Mitchel, staining the front of her gown.

On behalf of the city and the Mayor's Committee on National Defense, which had undertaken the construction of the vessel for recruiting purposes, Mayor Mitchel formally presented the *Recruit* to the navy. Rear Admiral Usher, representing the department, received the battleship. In his presentation address Mayor Mitchel called attention to New York's comparatively poor recruiting record, and said that the people must now be aroused to the seriousness of the duty which confronts them.

"At the beginning of the great war," said the Mayor, "farsighted men saw the inevitability of the United States entering the conflict. The City Government long ago began to prepare against that day when the declaration of war would compel us to take up arms. In every way possible the City Government had endeavored to assist the National Government in raising men for the army, navy, and marines. The construction of this model is merely one expression of that effort."

The Mayor then pointed out that only about 11,000 men had been recruited in the army, navy, Marine Corps, and naval auxiliary forces from this city in the two months since the United States entered the war. Out of the total population this number of recruits, the Mayor held, showed a decided lack of response to the call of national defense.

Admiral Usher, in accepting the ship, said: "This is an additional evidence of the patriotic feeling of the great City of New York."

The Admiral's flag was then raised and flung to the breeze with an outburst of music from the marine band stationed on the bridge. Admiral Usher assigned Commander C. A. Adams to the command of the vessel. Adams, walking to the rail and gazing into the faces of thousands of young men who thronged Union Square, shouted:

"Who will be the first man to enlist on board this ship?"

In a moment a tall, hatless young man freed himself from the crowd and presented himself for enlistment. He said he was Sherrill J. Kaemmerlen of Haverstraw, N. Y. Mrs. Mitchel stepped forward, congratulated him, and presented to him a rose from her bouquet.

Following this episode the entire party of guests descended below deck, where a buffet luncheon was served.

Among the officials and guests who attended the ceremonies were Borough President Marcus M. Marks, S. R. Guggenheim, General George W. Wingate, Lieut. Commander T. H. Taylor, Lieut. Commander John Grady and Mrs. Grady, Mrs. Arthur T. Chester, Captain Frank E. Evans of the Marine Corps and Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Margaret M. Crumpacker, Commander Frederick B. Upham and Mrs. Upham, Lieutenant Walter Smith, Lieutenant Wells J. Hawks, Park Commissioner Cabot Ward, Harvey Gibson, President of the Liberty National Bank; Philip McCook, Vice Chairman of the Mayor's Committee on National Defense; Alexander J. Hemphill, Chairman of the Recruiting Committee; Mr. and Mrs. Blaine Ewing, Ira Patchen, and Newcomb Carlton, President of the Western Union Telegraph Company.

While the launching ceremonies were in progress 200 boys of the American Junior Naval and Marine Scouts, under the command of Commodore L. E. Trimm and Colonel I. W. Irving, formed a guard of honor around the ship. There were also detachments of marines and bluejackets from the Brooklyn Navy Yard.