

THE NEW BATTLESHIP.

The Illinois to Be Launched Next Tuesday.

AN IMPORTANT EVENT.

For Which an Interesting Programme Has Been Arranged.

OUR NAVY AND VIRGINIA.

Secretary Long and Governor Tyler Will Respond to These Toasts.

Large Attendance Expected—Detailed Description of the Ship.

NEWPORT NEWS, VA., October 1.—(Special).—The launching of the first-class, sea-going, coast-line battleship Illinois, at the plant of the Newport News Ship-Building and Dry-Dock Company, next Tuesday morning, will, beyond all doubt, be the most important event of its kind in the history of American ship-building.

"I think the launching of the Illinois will be equal in importance to that of the Kearsarge and Kentucky," said General Superintendent Walter A. Post, in the presence of your correspondent last evening, basing his statement, of course, on the fact that this event will be attended by a larger number of dignitaries and, perhaps, fully as many people, as the double launching of last March.

The representation of the navy, army, and society on this occasion will be greater than at any previous launching, and the liberality with which the citizens of Chicago and the State after which the big battleship is named are preparing their programme for the day makes it very evident that they propose to outdo all other States that are to-day represented in the navy of the United States.

The Newport News Ship-Building and Dry-Dock Company will spare no expense to make its part of the programme a complete success, and all indications point to an eventful day.

The programme for the day will be as follows:

Launching, at high tide, about 11 o'clock.

Banquet, 2 P. M., at Chamberlin Hotel, Old Point Comfort.

Hop, 3 P. M., at the Chamberlin.

The vanguard of the visitors to Newport News for this occasion will be led by Hon. John D. Long, Secretary of the Navy, accompanied by the bureau chiefs of the Navy Department, who are expected to arrive here before noon Monday. The Secretary and party will leave Washington on the President's boat Dolphin not later than to-morrow evening.

He will spend the balance of Monday in directing the naval work in course of construction at the ship-yard. He and his party will make their home on the Dolphin, which is luxuriously fitted up, and will not go to a hotel.

GOVERNOR TANNER.

Monday afternoon will see the first of the crowds coming in and by night the Golden Gate of the Atlantic will welcome thousands of guests. Governor Tanner of Illinois, accompanied by his staff and specially invited guests, and Mayor Carter Harrison, of Chicago, accompanied by the committee in charge of the programme, will arrive at Old Point Comfort at 6:30 o'clock Monday evening, and will at once occupy rooms at the Chamberlin and Hyzela hotels. Quarters for these parties were engaged some months ago, and the managers of the two famous hotels have agreed to have rooms ready for them at whatever time should be selected for the launching. So, when the Illinoisians reach Old Point they will find everything in readiness for them.

It is expected that the State will send at least 2,000 or 4,000 people, and the others will find quarters at the hotels and boarding-houses in this city. Persons contemplating a visit to the city next week have been writing for terms for some time, and now every hotel and almost every boarding-house is assured of all the business it can handle. The great mass of people will come in Tuesday morning by rail and boat and the ship-yard gates will be thrown open to the accompaniment of the last plank is severed.

FALSE IDEAS.

Notwithstanding the accurate descriptions of launchings that have been published throughout the land time and again, there are a great many people who entertain the idea that a battleship is launched just as a boat is launched in position, while still resting on the ways.

It is surprising to read some of the western papers, even some of the leading ones published in Chicago, and note the ignorance of the writers regarding the manner in which a ship is launched. One Chicago paper of recent date states that "the committee is unable at this time to send out the invitations to the banquet and that the ship-yard officials have not yet indicated just how the people of the Illinois can carry to Old Point where the two events will be held." To those who expect to make the trip to Old Point on the Illinois next Tuesday, it will be disappointing to know that the battleship will not have steam in her boilers under nine or twelve months, if then.

The Illinois will be launched without her military masts in position. This decision was reached several days ago. The masts had been completed, and are now lying in the yard near the ship. The rigging of today is nothing more than a mammoth hull of thin steel, gracefully shaped and painted in bright red. It is not launched in its complete state, for the reason that it is impossible to attach the armor-plate and build the upper works while the ship is high and dry on land. Even if it were possible, the vessel would not make a safe journey to the water, being entirely too top-heavy. The ship is constructed in a cradle which rests on the permanent ways, and the last plank to be sawed releases the cradle which starts down to the river under the heavy weight of the hull. The bow pointing inland, the stern strikes the water first, tending to better buoyancy.

THE BANQUET.

When the ship is towed to one of the piers, the guests of the ship-building company will be escorted through the mainmast and will later board the steamer Newport News and enjoy a sail to Old Point Comfort, ten miles distant by water. At 2 o'clock the banquet will open and the guests will hear, perhaps, the best array of speakers that has ever attended a launching. Secretary Long will respond to the principal toast, "Our Navy." Governor Tanner is expected to respond to the toast, "Illinois," and Governor Tyler to "Virginia." There will be other toasts by officers of the navy and other men of high standing in civilian life. The launching hop, in the evening, will be the event of the season at Old Point.

It is learned from a trustworthy source that the members of naval committees of both houses of Congress will attend, almost to a man, and the Illinois delegation will be largely represented. It is not unlikely that President McKinley may change his mind at the last minute and decide to make the trip to the launching of the Dolphin. He has not yet declined the invitation extended to him to be present.

The principal question that is worrying the naval people is the number of ships that can be spared to participate at the launching. The cruiser San Francisco and monitors Puritan and Terror are in Hampton Roads and will doubtless be in condition to drop anchor in the James river. An effort is being made to have several of the armor-clads sent from New York, but no assurances have been given on this point.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SHIP.

The Illinois is the newest American warship, and is a trifle less than 673 feet over all and a shade over 72 feet beam. Its width is somewhat greater in proportion to length than that of the other battleships, and this gives it a more pronounced stability in a heavy sea, and will enable the gunners more accurately to determine ranges. When fully loaded, with all its guns, 1,200 tons of coal, and a full supply of ammunition it will displace 12,000 tons. It has a draft of 24 feet of water. With one half its fuel and other supplies it will draw only about 23 feet.

Officially described, the Illinois is to be a turret-battleship. Unlike the Oregon and Iowa, however, it will have no smaller turrets above those containing the 13-inch guns. The rest of the main battery will be placed on the main, spar and forward decks, and will be protected by armor-plate. The 13-inch guns will be fired by plates, if the name can be applied to masses of steel 17 inches in thickness. The turrets will revolve on delicately adjusted wheels, the power being furnished by hydraulic motors. The sides will be protected by a belt of Harveyized steel, which will be 9-1/2 inches thick at the bottom, increasing to 13-1/2 inches at the water line and 19-1/2 inches at the top. The armor on the main battery will range from 10 to 15 inches in thickness. This is about 2 inches thinner than that of the Massachusetts or Oregon, for example, but being placed in a position of greater safety, it will be as effective in resisting the impact of a shot. The deck ordnance will be placed behind shields of steel ranging from 6-1/2 to 6 inches. They will be mounted in such a position that twelve can be trained on a target at the same time. Every casting of armor-plate is to be subjected to a thorough test before it is placed on the vessel, and the naval constructors say that the best quality of steel is being turned out for a warship in the Pennsylvania furnaces will be used on the Illinois.

CORN-PIT ARMOR-BELT.

Then, the Illinois is to have an invulnerable protection, which is not to be made of steel, but of corn-stalks. This is cellulose. One would scarcely imagine that the stalks from an Illinois corn-field could be manufactured into a material which would form a protection against a 10-inch steel shell, but the government believes in simply the pith of corn-stalks, shredded and cut so that it can be compressed and baled like hay, but which is dense and elastic. At the proving grounds on the Potomac, it was found that three bales of corn-stalks, compressed into a comparatively close range. Of course, the metal entered it, and in many instances passed clear through. But most of the tests were closed the apparatus, and the effect was the same as if the corn-stalks were made of iron. Cellulose takes up but little space, and is far superior to cotton in counteracting the penetrating effect of the projectile. Nearly 12,000 cubic yards of cellulose will be used as a sort of lining to the hull of the Illinois. Most of it will be below the surface of the water and around the machinery and magazines. Should a hole be made through the armor in any place, the cellulose is supposed to form a dam and hold the water back, so that the hole, even should it be penetrated.

The supply of coal will be an additional protection. Twelve hundred tons occupy considerable space, and the weight of heavy bulkheads and the weight of the armor-plate will give the full supply forms a sort of armor which is of great value.

MOTIVE POWER AND APPLIANCES.

Ten thousand-horse power is to be developed by the engines which will be used to propel the big ship. They are of the favorite type of the navy—vertical triple expansion. Their power can be approximately estimated when it is remarked that the cylinders are 31-1/2, 31, and 28 inches in diameter. A man could walk through the cylinders wearing a silk hat, and not touch the sides. They will make 120 revolutions per minute, and will be attached to two steel shafts, each 53 feet in length and 15 inches in diameter. The shafts will operate two sets of propellers of manganese steel. One or both propellers can be turned at the will of the engineer. The motive power, however, represents only a small portion of the machinery which will be installed. The shafts will operate an elaborate mechanism for extinguishing fires. A score of dynamos will be used to run fans and incandescent lights, while an individual plant will operate

GREAT AUTUMN HANDICAP GOVERNORS STAKES. AMOUNTS JACKPOT. TAX-PAYER VAN WYCK, OF BRIDGEPORT. TAX-DODGER. WHICH SIDE WOULD YOU BET ON?



"THEY'RE OFF!"

New York World.

THE NEW MONITORS.

FOUR HARBOR-DEFENCE SHIPS AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS. NEWPORT NEWS A LOW BIDDER.

Vessels to Be Like the Monitors of the War Between the States, But Vastly Superior to Them in Power.

WASHINGTON, October 1.—Bids were opened at the Navy Department today for the construction of the four harbor-defence vessels of the monitor type authorized by Congress, at an expenditure of \$12,000,000 for each monitor. The act directs the Secretary to have in view the best results and most expeditious delivery. Consequently, the department, in laying down its requirements, made twenty-seven months the maximum time for the completion of the vessels, providing a penalty, ranging from \$30 to \$600 per day, for any delay in their completion. The monitors are to be built strictly in accordance with the department's designs, no provision being made, as is usually the case, for the submission of contractors' plans. In type they have no duplicates in modern ship construction, and more than anything else resemble the little monitors which distinguished themselves in the war between the States.

The Board of Bureau Chiefs would have liked very much to provide a more powerful class of vessel, but the small limit of cost fixed in the appropriation act prevented this, and they were obliged to content themselves with single-turret monitors of 2,700 tons displacement. Nevertheless, the designers have contrived within these narrow limits to plan a most serviceable type of vessel, though their usefulness will be strictly limited to harbor-defence, and on account of their small proportions they will not be able to undertake any lengthy voyages.

LIKE THE WAR MONITORS.

While resembling roughly the war monitors, these new vessels will be vastly superior to them in power. Their speed, for instance, will be twelve knots, about double that of the old vessels. Their batteries will consist of two 12-inch breech-loading rifles, capable of piercing the sides of nine-tenths of the naval vessels of the world; four 4-inch rapid-fire guns, and seven smaller-calibre rapid-fire guns like those that did such service in the destruction of Cervara's squadron. The builders are not required to furnish either gun armor, or turrets. The latter, named by the way, are to be electrically controlled, as are those on the Brooklyn. The turrets will be of the balanced type, ten inches thick behind and with 11-inch barbette, while a belt of armor seven inches thick and five feet broad will be placed on the sides of the vessel. The monitors will be 225 feet long and fifty feet broad, and draw about twelve and a half feet of water, enabling them to move freely in any of the shallow Atlantic-coast harbors.

The lowest bidders for building the monitors were named as follows: Nixon of Elizabeth, N. J., \$35,000; Newport

News \$30,000; Bath Iron-Works, Maine, \$25,000; Union Iron-Works, San Francisco, \$25,000.

OUT IN HIGHLAND.

Political-Christian Workers' Convention—Pat Cattle—Personal.

MONTEREY, VA., October 1.—(Special). If there is as much indifference shown in other counties in the Old Dominion as is the case in Highland, the campaign promises to be one of unusual inactivity. The coming election is rarely mentioned in the country, unless by some one seeking to know on what day in November it takes place.

Judge J. M. Quarles and Colonel R. T. Hubard, the respective Democratic and Republican candidates for Congress for this (the Tenth) district, are billed to address the Highland voters on Circuit Court day, when it is thought that some enthusiasm will be displayed. The county chairmen are trying to effect a joint discussion by the gentlemen above named, and if such a report gains currency a large crowd may be looked for.

Small wonder that many Highland voters show apathy, as so many of the voting places are inconvenient in location. At McDowell there is no precinct, the citizens of that village having to make a journey of eight miles to cast their ballots. At other points in the county can be found similar cases. The average farmer dislikes to make a pilgrimage of six or eight miles and return to vote at an "off" election.

The Democratic candidate, Judge Quarles, is, however, the favorite here, and will carry the county by a handsome majority.

The annual session of the Christian Workers' Convention was held at McDowell on Thursday and Friday of this week. The attendance was quite large, there being a full quota from the several districts throughout the county.

Many fat cattle were started for market last week. More than three hundred head passed through town Thursday. The prices realized for stock this fall are the highest for twenty-five years. Especially good are the prices paid for small stocks, such as yearlings, calves, and sheep. One farmer received \$25 for three small calves last week.

Notwithstanding the wet season, cattle have fattened well, and the graziers are well satisfied with the result when their stock is driven to the scales. So far as I have learned, the fattest 3-year-olds in the county were grazed in the Crab-bottom Valley, by Markwood Simmons & Brother, the average weight of his lot being 1,335. Another lot from the blue-grass farm of John Trimble, Esq., numbered ninety, averaged 1,063.

Pearl, Pinckney, and Glenn, sons of Andrew Waybright, who left this county for Nebraska last February, and who were left behind when the rest of the family returned in August last, reached Highland last week, having "worked" their way from Omaha to Staunton. The most remarkable feature connected with the undertaking is, that only once during the trip were they separated, and only for two hours then. No accident befell the junior tramps, although they came the entire distance by rail and in a comparatively short time. They take great pleasure in relating their adventures, not denying the fact that they were repeatedly put off, and three times at the point of a freight conductor's shoe.

Rev. J. F. Preytmann, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church, South of Staunton, accompanied by A. Lee Know-

les, attended the Christian Workers' Convention, at McDowell this week.

Hon. Charles P. Jones has just returned from several days' attendance on the Supreme Court of Appeals, at Staunton. Colonel R. T. Hubard, Republican candidate for Congress for this district, reached Highland Friday evening, where he will spend three or four days speaking.

Mr. Michael Maury, who took up his residence in Nebraska six years ago, is visiting his old home and friends in Highland.

Dr. E. L. Rex, of Monterey, left on the mail back Tuesday morning for a week's sojourn at Waterford, Va.

Mr. Thomas H. Slaven and wife are visiting in Rockingham and Augusta counties.

Miss Clara Siple, from Green Bank, W. Va., is the guest of relatives in town.

Commonwealth's Attorney John M. Colaw and wife, who have been spending two weeks "whiling" in Rockbridge county, reached home on Thursday evening.

A NOVEL ELECTION.

To Determine Who is the Thief—Personal.

GREEN BAY, Va., October 1.—(Special). For several weeks past a number of families living in and near the village have been annoyed by having their gardens and orchards robbed at night. The important question of the hour has been, how to catch the thief. A citizen has suggested an entirely new method, which has been endorsed and will be tried on next Saturday, October 8th. The plan is to have an election to decide upon the guilty party. All persons, both white and colored, male and female, will be allowed to vote. The election will be held on the Australian system, and will be strictly a secret ballot. The party receiving the largest number of votes cast will be declared elected. It is understood the punishment will be a week's hard labor to be given to the persons having been robbed. One or two suspicious characters are already trembling, but are eager to vote, stating that if they remain at home it would look rather suspicious, hence they will take part.

Mrs. Mattie J. Read, of Lunsburg, is quite unwell. Her sister, Mrs. W. M. Richardson, of this place, was on Friday sent for, and is still with her.

Hon. George C. Orgain, Judge of Lunenburg county, was in the village this week.

Miss Ethel Berry, of this place, who has been visiting Miss Spencer, of Macksburg, returned home Friday.

Miss Jamie Perkins, of this place, is visiting friends at New.

FILIPINOS AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

Aguinaldo's Envoys Desire Representation on Paris Commission.

WASHINGTON, October 1.—Aguinaldo and Lopez, the representatives of Aguinaldo, the Philippine insurgent leader, called at the White House to-day, in company with General Greene, and had a private conference with the President in the Cabinet-room.

The interview was entirely informal, it being distinctly understood that the administration did not receive the representatives of the insurgents in any official capacity.

While the Filipinos refused to discuss the interview, claiming it to have been only to "pay their respects," it is presumed that they informally talked over their expectations, which are to secure representation on the Paris commission, if possible; if not, then to be heard by the commission as to the attitude and wishes of the highest authorities.

Assistant-Secretary-of-State Adeo was also present during the interview.

DUEL WITH RAPIERS.

Journalist Thrice Wounded—His Antagonist Slightly Hurt.

PARIS, October 1.—A duel between M. Charles Ernest Paulmier and M. Turot, of the Lanterne, was fought this morning, rapiers being the weapons used. M. Turot was thrice wounded in the thigh and side, and M. Paulmier was slightly wounded on the lip.

Madame Paulmier, on September 23, went to the office of the Lanterne and twice shot M. Olivier, the secretary of the editor, because he had written in the paper that he grossly slandered herself and her husband. The latter subsequently challenged M. Turot, who was the writer of the article referred to. The charges made were indignantly denied by both husband and wife.

GOMEZ IS GRATEFUL.

Says He is Confident We Can Establish Stable Government.

HABANA, October 1.—General Maximo Gomez has left the Rojas Camp, and is retiring to an estate near Remedios, province of Santa Clara. He has given his staff permission to visit their families.

Captain Page, General Butler's aide-de-camp, who has been on a visit to General Gomez at the Rojas Camp, says Gomez seems very grateful to the United States, and confident that the American authorities will be able to establish a stable and independent government.

VAN WYCK WILL ACCEPT.

He Resigns from the Bench in Order to Do So.

NEW YORK, October 1.—Augustus Van Wyck, the Democratic nominee for Governor, has resigned his seat on the Supreme Court bench, in order that he may accept the gubernatorial nomination. The State Constitution makes votes cast for a Supreme Court justice, except for a reelection, illegal.

The Lutheran Church Pastorate.

Dr. A. E. Greiner will officiate at the First English Evangelical Lutheran church this morning, but there will be no night service. The secretary of the Lutheran Mission Board has written to the council that in event of no nomination being made before the 12th instant the pulpit will be regularly supplied by other ministers until a pastor is chosen.

Mr. W. G. Stannard Takes Charge.

Mr. W. G. Stannard, the newly-elected secretary of the Virginia Historical Society, took charge of his office at that institution yesterday. Mr. Philip A. Bruce, the retiring secretary, left for London last Saturday week to engage in the work of writing a history of the United States, for which he was engaged by MacMillan & Co.

Pastor Menze's Farewell Sermon.

Rev. Paul L. Menzel, D. D., pastor of St. John's German Evangelical church, has been appointed to represent the Lutherans of North America at the dedication of the Lutheran church at Jerusalem, will preach a farewell sermon this morning at 11 o'clock. The pastor will start upon his journey to the Holy Land to-night.

Dr. Nancy in the Tolls.

LONDON, October 1.—Dr. Nancy Gullford, the Bridgeport (Conn.) woman, who is wanted by the American police on the charge of having been connected with the death of Emma Gill, has been arrested.

PEACE TALK BEGINS.

First Discussion Between American and Spanish Commissioners.

MAGNIFICENT APARTMENTS.

France Has Done Herself Proud in Providing for the Envoys.

IRREPROACHABLE HOSPITALITY.

Suite of Rooms Wholly Turned Over to the Use of the Commissioners—Proceedings of the Commission Kept Secret.

PARIS, October 1.—The American and Spanish peace commissioners assembled for their first discussion at 2 o'clock to-day, in the rooms assigned to them for their deliberations at the French Foreign Office. A special entrance is set apart for the use of the commissioners, in order to furnish them with every privacy and convenience possible.

The entire suite of rooms may be described as being of massive appearance. Handsome crystal chandeliers hang from the ceilings, and the walls are wholly covered with Gobelin tapestries. In the centre of the hall, and reaching the entire length of the apartment, is a massive rosewood table, covered with a red velvet cloth, and having around it large, handsome chairs for the use of the commissioners. Before each chair is a large leather-bound portfolio, and a tray upon which are pencils, an ink-eraser, quill and steel pens, a china well, and a sponge cup. This apartment is carpeted in maroon and gold, and the walls and ceiling are of deep violet and gold.

CHARMING OUTLOOK.

The windows are draped with silk and priceless lace curtains. They overlook the beautiful private gardens of the Foreign Minister, which contain exquisite statuary and some rare trees and shrubs.

The Foreign Office authorities have wholly turned over the suite of rooms described to the peace commissioners. Even the keys of the apartments were handed to the commissioners to-day, and orders were issued that no persons, not even French officials, are to be allowed to enter the rooms while the commissioners are using them.

The session of the commissions lasted ninety minutes. The next session will take place Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Both commissions maintained secrecy as to their proceedings.

FEAST OF THE HOLY ROSARY.

It Will Be Celebrated in All the Catholic Churches To-Day.

To-day is the Feast of the Holy Rosary, and it will be observed with special services in all the Catholic churches. At the Cathedral, St. Joseph's beautiful mass will be sung, and at the offertory Miss Herald will sing Buck's "Ave Maria." At 4 P. M. musical vespers and grand Magnificat will be sung.

Mrs. J. Sebastian Rafferty will sing Dudley Buck's contralto solo, "Salve Regina"; "O Salutaris," soprano solo by Miss Yetta Herald, and Piusini's "Tantum Ergo"; basso solo by Mr. James Holleran.

There will be a grand celebration of the feast at St. Joseph's (colored) Catholic church, on First street.

In the forenoon at 10 o'clock there will be high mass, with an excellent musical programme rendered by the choir. At 4 o'clock in the afternoon the school children, dressed in white, will participate in the rosary procession. The music at this service will be rendered by the choir and the children, under the direction of the organist, Miss Maggie Ryan.

THE JUNIOR COTILLON CLUB.

Arrangements Have Been Made for the Opening Event of the Season.

The invitations are out for the junior cotillon, which begins October 21st. It will begin the new season with a greatly enlarged list of members, and there will be many new features. This year the season promises to be a brilliant one.

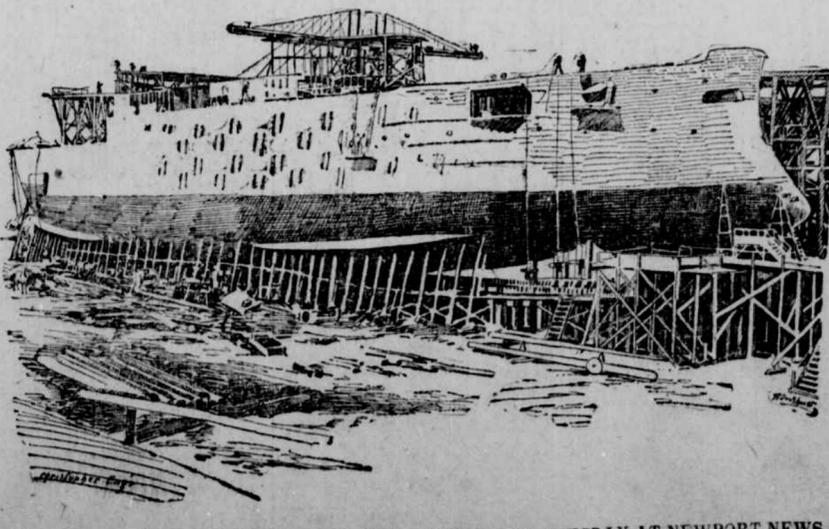
The chaperones will be Mrs. Joseph Bryan, Mrs. Herbert Claiborne, Mrs. James Lyons, Mrs. Henry Williams, Mrs. Austin Brockebrough, Mrs. Robert Blankenship, Mrs. William Bentley, Mrs. William L. Royall, Mrs. Preston Cooke, Mrs. Thomas Bolling, Mrs. Hartley Carmichael, Mrs. Charles E. Bolling, Mrs. Howard W. Harrison, Mrs. H. Cannon, Jr., Messrs. Gill and B. H. Grundy also shot.

The annual meeting of the club will be held at the Commonwealth Club on October 6th at 9 P. M., when officers will be elected, and several questions of importance will be acted upon.

The hunting season opens on Saturday, October 15th, and the prospects are that the bi-weekly hunts will be well attended.

Many Contractors in the Race.

For three days Architect Rushmurtz's office has been besieged by contractors desiring to submit bids for the construction of the Union Stock-Yards plant. Owing to the large number of contractors working upon the plans, it has been impossible to get all the bids in, but the matter will probably go to the Board of Directors early this week.



THE NEW BATTLESHIP ILLINOIS, TO BE LAUNCHED ON TUESDAY AT NEWPORT NEWS.