

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.

Launching, at high tide, about 11 o'clock. Banquet, 2 P. M., at Chamberlin Hotel, Old Point Comfort.

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.

Then, the Illinois is to have an invisible protection, which will be a matter of course, 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.

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.

High tide will be registered Tuesday morning about 11 o'clock, and shortly thereafter the force of specially selected workmen will commence to remove the shores from under the sides of the towering hull. The last restraining planks will then be severed, the ship will start slowly down the greased ways, and Miss Lester will break a bottle of champagne across the bow, christening the ship as it glides into the water.

Notwithstanding the accurate description of the Illinois, which has 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 ship is launched.

ions 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 ship is launched. 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.

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 ever attended a launching.

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 Illinois. He has not yet declined the invitation extended to him to be present.

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 it is a trifle less than 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 10-inch turret battleship. Unlike the Oregon and Iowa, however, it will have no smaller turrets above those containing the 10-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 of varying thickness, and by armor-plates, if the name can be applied to masses of steel 17 inches in thickness.

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GREAT AUTUMN HANDICAP GOVERNORS STAKES. AMOUNTS JACKPOT. TAX-PAYER VAN WYCK, OF BRIDGEPORT, TAX-DODGER.



"THEY'RE OFF!" New York World.

THE NEW MONITORS.

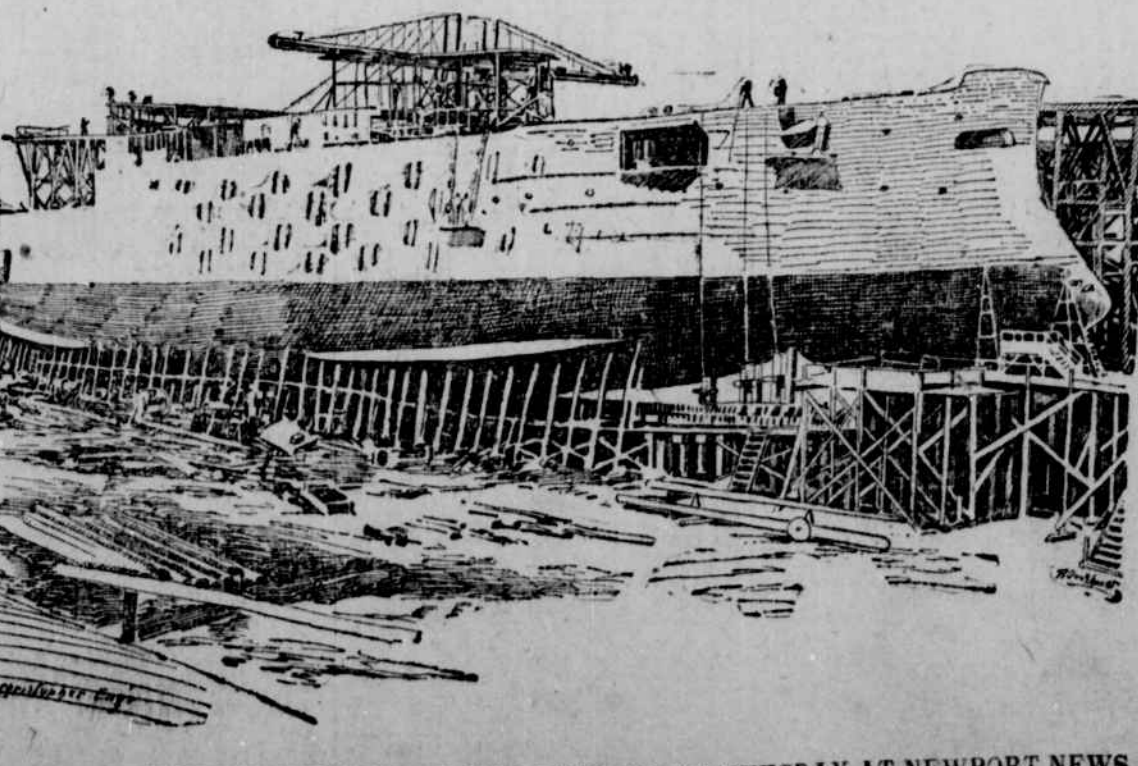
FOUR HARBOR-DEFENCE SHIPS AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS. NEWPORT NEWS A LOW BIDDER.

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 \$12,500,000 for each monitor.

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 lowest bidders for building the monitors were named as follows: Nixon of Elizabeth, N. J., \$35,000; Newport News Ship-Building and Dry-Dock Company, \$35,000; Union Iron-Works, San Francisco, \$35,000.



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

ies, 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. Holt, Republican candidate for Congress for this district, reached Highland Friday evening, where he will spend three or four days speaking.

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.

FILIPINOS AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

Aginaldo's Envoys Desire Representation on Paris Commission. WASHINGTON, October 1.—Agonillo and Lopez, the representatives of Aginaldo, 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.

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.

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.

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 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.

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.

Pastor Menzies 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, which will be held on Saturday morning at 11 o'clock.

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 commissions 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.

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.

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.

CHARMING OUTLOOK.

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.

Madame Paulmier, on September 23, went to the office of the Lanterne and twice shot M. Olivier, the secretary of the editor, because she was angry with 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.

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.

Trap Shooting at Hunt Club.

The members of the Deep-Run Hunt Club entertained yesterday afternoon at the club-house several of the members of the various shooting clubs of this city at the traps. The weather was not favorable for high scores, as a strong wind was blowing all the afternoon and the sky became very cloudy towards night-fall.

Many Contractors in the Race.

For three days Architect Rushman'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.