

# Battleship Nebraska and Its Interest for the People of Its Name State



No. 1—Gunner J. H. Alger.

TWO OF THE BIG GUN CREWS OF THE NEBRASKA.

No. 3—Gunner H. J. Nevin.

CAPTAIN NICHOLSON, COMMANDING THE NEBRASKA.

JUNIOR OFFICERS OF THE NEBRASKA.

**T**HE FIRST keel of a battleship of the United States navy to be laid on the Fourth of July was that of the battleship Nebraska. In the shipbuilding yards of Moran Bros. at Seattle, Wash., on July 4, 1902. The occasion was a memorable one in the history of Pacific coast shipbuilding, and was made more than a gala day by the good people of Seattle and the surrounding territory.

The first rivet was driven by Governor Ezra P. Savage of Nebraska and Governor Henry McBride of Washington in the presence of more than 10,000 people, and in a pouring rain. The big sheds of the ship yards were crowded to their utmost with an enthusiastic throng of Washingtonians and Nebraskans. A detail of marines from the United States navy yard at Bremerton was drawn up at "present arms" as Governors Savage and McBride with their staffs marched out onto the great platform where the exercises were to take place. The marine band furnished all sorts of patriotic music for the occasion and the governor's salute of thirteen guns was fired from the floating dry docks as the two executives put in their appearance. The ceremonies were witnessed by many officers of the army and navy and hosts of enthusiastic men and women. The brilliant uniforms of the officers with the charming habits of the women and the somber garb of the citizens made the scene one wholly typical of an American demonstration. Even Young America contributed its quota of enthusiasm for the occasion by a fusillade of all sorts of fire and cannon crackers, torpedos and torpedo cans, until the fish were all scared out to sea and only the human bipeds were in evidence.

### When the Keel Was Laid.

The entire ship yard plant was profusely decorated for the great occasion with flags and flowers. A large streamer bearing the word "Nebraska" was stretched across between the big steel cranes. This was outlined with incandescent lamps and when the cranes were set to motion, the lamps were lighted and thus was "Nebraska's" name sent astward the horizon in letters of fire. The pennant of the governor of Nebraska was placed in the center of the reviewing stand and proudly waved the intimation that this was Nebraska Day in the occasion. Judge Thomas Burke of Seattle was master of ceremonies and delivered the opening address. He talked of the growth of the maritime interests on the Pacific coast and predicted for them a future that would grow brighter with the coming years. The address of welcome was delivered by Governor Henry McBride of Washington. When Governor Savage stepped forward to speak he was given an ovation. Then the two governors shed their coats and, each grasping a sledge hammer, went to work driving the first rivet in the steel keel of the great ship that was to carry in after years the name of Nebraska across the deep and into every port where battleships are wont to assemble either on a peaceful or serious mission.

The governors did not work long. But when they had finished their job of riveting, President Moran of the ship building company gave each of the governors a pay check for 2 cents. The pay checks were on the regular form of the Moran Bros. company and were given for the actual time they worked, two and a half minutes. Little Malcolm Malone, proud son of the president of the company presented Governor Savage with a souvenir of the occasion. It was the first piece of steel ever punched from the keel of the battleship. It was mounted on a piece of wood taken from the old battleship Hartford, and was suitably engraved.

### Governor Savage's Party.

The party accompanying Governor Savage on this occasion from Nebraska consisted of Governor Ezra P. Savage and these members of his official staff: Colonel

and Mrs. G. E. Jenkins, Colonel and Mrs. C. J. Bliss and daughter, Colonel and Mrs. C. D. Evans, Colonel John H. Brown, Adjutant General L. W. Colby, Colonel C. F. Schurmann, Colonel and Mrs. H. P. Sutton, Colonel and Mrs. J. B. Watkins, Colonel and Mrs. J. G. Martin, Captain George Lyons, Colonel and Mrs. E. M. Melick and son, Colonel and Mrs. J. W. Thomas and daughter, Colonel and Mrs. E. C. Boyson, Colonel Frank E. Moore, Colonel F. M. Rublee, aide attached to the governor's military staff. The party left Omaha June 30, 1902, over the Union Pacific.

### Launching of the Ship.

The battleship Nebraska was launched from the Moran Bros. ship yards, Seattle, at 2:02 o'clock Friday afternoon, October 7, 1904, in the presence of 50,000 people, amid the booming of guns from the monitor Wyoming, the whistling of ships' sirens and from mills and factories throughout the city. The day was dark and foggy. The occasion was made a holiday in Seattle. All the banks and business houses of the city were closed from noon until 3:30, that everybody might take in the big ceremonies. Sound steamers and tugs were fitted up as grand stands to permit the people to witness the ceremonies from every possible point of vantage.

On the launching stand had assembled the officers of the state of Washington and Nebraska and representatives of the army and navy of the United States and distinguished citizens. Bands galore were there, and played a special march dedicated to Nebraska by a local composer. The only hitch in the proceedings was the impetuosity of the ship itself which started from its ways eleven minutes ahead of the time set by the program. Fortunately the tide was running in and no accident resulted. Congressman Humphrey of Washington had just begun his speech when the ship started. A crash of breaking planks was heard and in an instant all eyes were centered on the big ship instead of the speaker. "She's moving," was the universal cry, and she was. Then there broke from the vast crowd a pandemonium of cheers. But Marie Nain Micky, daughter of Governor Mickey of Nebraska, who was named as the sponsor to christen the ship, was equal to the emergency of the moment and grasping the bottle of champagne by the neck broke it on the stem of the moving vessel saying, "I christen thee Nebraska." Very few people heard her, but she successfully accomplished her mission with the characteristic presence of mind of a genuine Nebraskan girl.

### Ceremonies of the Launch.

Arrangements had been so made by the signal service that when the boat started electric currents would be loosened to signal to the ships and adjacent wharves to let go their nois of cannonade and whistling, and they let go in greeting to their newest sister of the sea. The sight was a most impressive one as the great hull swung out to the sea. The cheering was renewed and the speaking and formal program of the afternoon was carried on under annoying difficulties. Attorney General Frank N. Prout's speech was drowned by the noise of the pounding of bolts and sawing of planks that restrained the launching cradles.

The most eloquent speech of the afternoon was in the presentation of a check for \$100,000 to President Moran of the ship building company, by President Schramm of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce as an evidence of the appreciation of the day of Seattle for the successful culmination of his great work.

Mayor Bulling of Seattle, delivered the opening address. He was followed by Secretary of State E. H. Nichols, acting governor of the state of Washington, who welcomed Governor Mickey and the Nebraska visitors. They followed the address of Governor Mickey. Addresses were also made by Hon. James Mickle of Seattle,



MASCOTS OF THE NEBRASKA—"DICK" AND "SNOWBALL"—ON THE FORWARD STARBOARD TWELVE-INCH GUN.

formerly of Omaha, and Attorney General Frank N. Prout of Nebraska. During their stay at Seattle the Nebraska visitors were royally entertained. They visited the Iron-clad monitor Wyoming, and were shown about the city, and were given every mark of hospitable distinction.

### In the Official Party.

The Nebraska party on this occasion left Lincoln, October 3, 1904, and consisted of Governor and Mrs. John H. Mickey, Superintendent Fowler, State Treasurer Mortensen, Attorney General Frank N. Prout and daughter Vera, Secretary of State and Mrs. Marsh, Auditor of State and Mrs. Weston, Colonel and Mrs. T. W. McCullough of Omaha, Adjutant General and Mrs. J. A. Culver, Colonel and Mrs. H. F. Shumway of Wakefield, Colonel C. W. Kaley of Red Cloud and sister, Mrs. Cather of Lincoln; Colonel and Mrs. Melick of Lincoln, Colonel and Mrs. C. G. Evans of Columbus, Colonel and Mrs. G. E. Jenkins of Fairbury, Colonel Jacob Dew of Tecumseh and other members of the governor's staff and their wives.

### One of the Finest.

The battleship Nebraska now finished and ready for sea, will shortly take her place with the battleship fleet in its tour of the last lap on its trip around the world. It is one of the finest battleships afloat, as well as one of the most formidable. The Nebraska has a displacement of 15,000 tons. The contract price of its build-

ing cup, 100 ounces; punch bowl, 200 ounces; punch ladle, 18 ounces; waiter to hold punch bowl, 200 ounces, and eighteen punch cups weighing a trifle over 3 1/2 ounces each, or a total of 100 ounces, making the total weight of the service 1,278 ounces.

The center piece is designed for fruit, flowers and lights. The main part to be used for fruit or cut flowers, or when the loving cup is out of the center, can be used as a fern dish as a separate piece for table decoration, while the loving cup can be used separately. The six lights of the candelabrum are fitted for electricity. The total length over all is thirty-five inches, height twenty-one inches. The lights have silver candle shades on which are engraved the seals of the state of Nebraska and Navy department alternately. The large shell at the end of the centerpiece, in which the arms are fitted, run into a shell border that overhangs the edge of the lower dish and extend to each side of the eagles' wings. These eagles continue the border and retain the form and slope of an eagle in a natural position. The words "U. S. S. Nebraska," are etched on the main central panel. Additional decoration on the centerpiece is an etching of the Union Pacific bridge at Omaha, as indicating the first overland route west. Upon another panel is etched a scene along the Platte river and on the other panels on the reverse side are etched the Nebraska state capitol building and a farm scene showing twenty large stacks of hay, and the other panel shows a skirmish with the Indians. Between the various etchings and scenes are relief work designs showing the various products of the state, corn and wheat and the herds of cattle also in bold relief. The eagle holds in its talons a cluster of golden rod, the state flower and the laurel branch indicating victory and peace. Upon the side of the base is the seal of the United States navy. Seaweed is introduced in connection with the shell effect, carrying out the nautical design.

### Loving Cup and Punch Bowl.

The loving cup is twelve inches high. It has dolphin handles with the shell border to correspond with the centerpiece. An Indian scene is etched on one side of the body and upon the reverse side a fine etching of a buffalo or American bison. The seal of the state and of the navy alternates at appropriate intervals. A wire net or mesh is provided for the top to be used in filling it with cut flowers, when such use may be made of the loving cup. An oblong base or foot has been provided to fit inside the centerpiece to give the cup the proper and symmetrical elevation when used with the centerpiece.

### Omaha Firm Designs Silver.

To the Reichenberg-Smith company, wholesale jewelers and manufacturers of Omaha belongs the honor of supplying to the state of Nebraska the silver service for the battleship Nebraska. The design submitted by this firm was selected by Governor Mickey as the most handsome and appropriate. The weight of the presentation service is 1,200 ounces of sterling silver, .925 fine. The service was manufactured by the big manufacturing firm of Caldwell & Co. of Philadelphia from designs suggested by Arthur F. Smith of the Omaha firm. It took several months to complete the service, which is regarded as one of the most artistic ever put out by the Philadelphia firm. All of the important decorations had to be cast and etched by hand.

### Massive Center Piece.

The service consists of twenty-five pieces. The centerpiece, weighing 500 ounces; lov-

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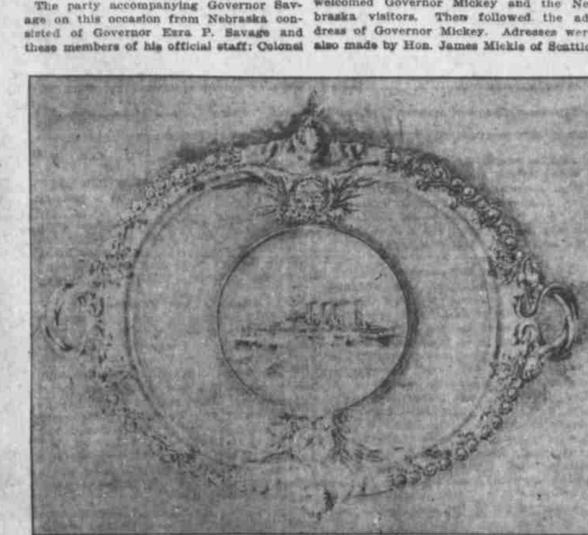
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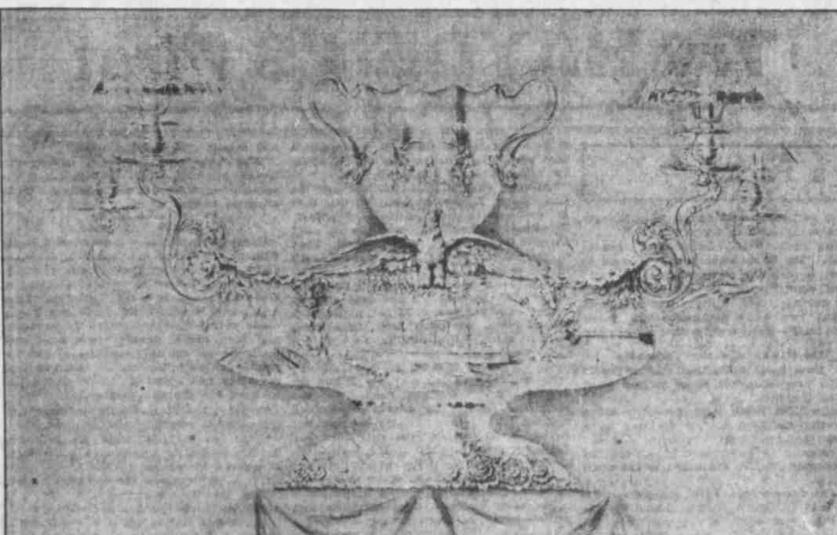
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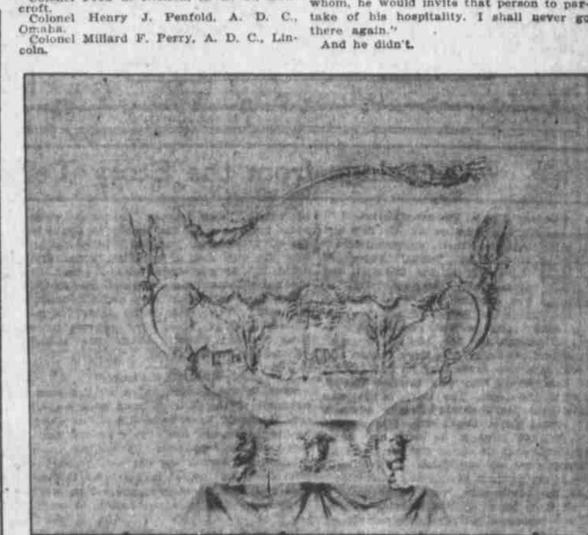
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SILVER FOR THE SERVICE.



CENTERPIECE OF THE NEBRASKA SILVER SERVICE.



PUNCH BOWL AND LADLE.

### A Breach of Hospitality

J. F. Epes, a courtly and dignified old southern gentleman, was a member of congress from Virginia when Grover Cleveland was president.

One day he came stamping out of the White House, and exploded to a friend: "I shall never go there again; never, sir! I shall never set my foot in that edifice again!"

"Why, Mr. Epes," asked the friend, "what is the matter?"

"It was in there, sir," said Epes, "and I was talking to the president. I noticed he was ill at ease. Presently he said: 'Have you finished, Mr. Epes?' 'Yes, sir,' I replied. 'I have completed what I have to say, and I thank you for giving me your attention.'"

"Then, sir," he said, "I am glad that, for I want to go to luncheon."

"Mr. Epes stopped. 'Well,' said the friend, 'what then?'"

"Nothing then," stormed Epes. "That is all there is to it. Not that I wanted his luncheon, but, sir, he actually spoke of luncheon without asking me. I wouldn't have accepted, but he didn't ask me. I want to tell you, sir, that no Virginia gentleman would treat any person that way. If it came luncheon time when he was talking to any person, no matter whom, he would invite that person to partake of his hospitality. I shall never go there again."

And he didn't.