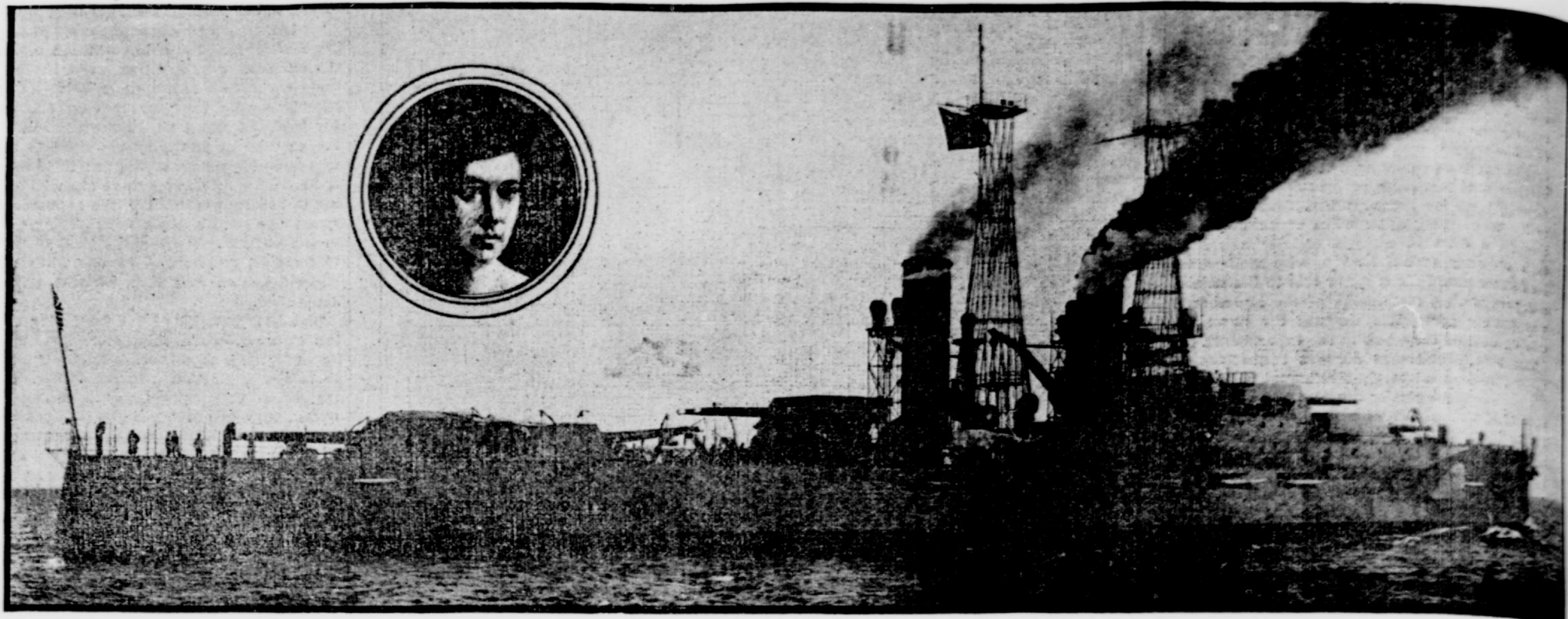


NEARLY EVERY GREAT POWER IN THE WORLD NOW HAS IN COMMISSION OR IS BUILDING OR IS PLANNING



MISS E. L. FLEMING.

A Peninsula State girl, who will name the Florida.

THE NORTH DAKOTA, ONE OF THE DREADNOUGHTS OF OUR NAVY, COMMISSIONED A FEW DAYS AGO. This vessel of 20,000 tons looks as the Florida will when completed. The 26,000-ton Arkansas and Wyoming will also be similar in appearance. (Copyright, 1909, by Enrique Muller.)

HALF BILLION IN SHIPS

Powers Spending This Sum for Half a Hundred Dreadnoughts.

The Dreadnought race is gaining headway rapidly. Soon no nation which does not possess a Dreadnought will be "in the swim," a statement which would be literally true in case of a naval combat with a fleet of these modern dragons of the sea. These observations are called forth by the growing number of reports of decisions in favor of appropriations for and launchings and speed trials of this new type of battleship.

In regard to Dreadnoughts one can hardly prophesy with any accuracy what a day will bring forth. Although it is only three and a fraction years since the first of these all-big-gun ships demonstrated its efficiency, nearly every power is planning for, building or the possessor of one or more of these \$10,000,000 engines of war. These nations are setting a pace which should make the hair of the members of peace societies rise, a pace literally killing, financially as well as in the flesh. On the basis of the cost of the original Dreadnought the fifty-five ships of this class built or projected will represent an expenditure of a round half billion dollars. All of this is suggested by two occurrences among the many of a similar character which could be mentioned.

On May 12 the Florida, the fourth of the Dreadnoughts constructed by the United States, if all goes well, will slide down the ways at the Brooklyn navy yard into the peaceful waters of the East River in the presence of President Taft, Secretary Meyer and many well known persons concerned in the conduct of the navy. The first of the American fleet of this type of vessels, the North Dakota, and the Delaware, of 20,000 tons displacement, have recently gone into commission and been added to the Atlantic fleet, and the Utah, the sister ship of the Florida, which is being built at a private yard, was launched a short time ago. The Utah and the Florida, however, are to be nearly 2,000 tons larger than the first pair of all-big-gun ships. The third pair of this class of ships, the Arkansas and the Wyoming, which are to be 26,

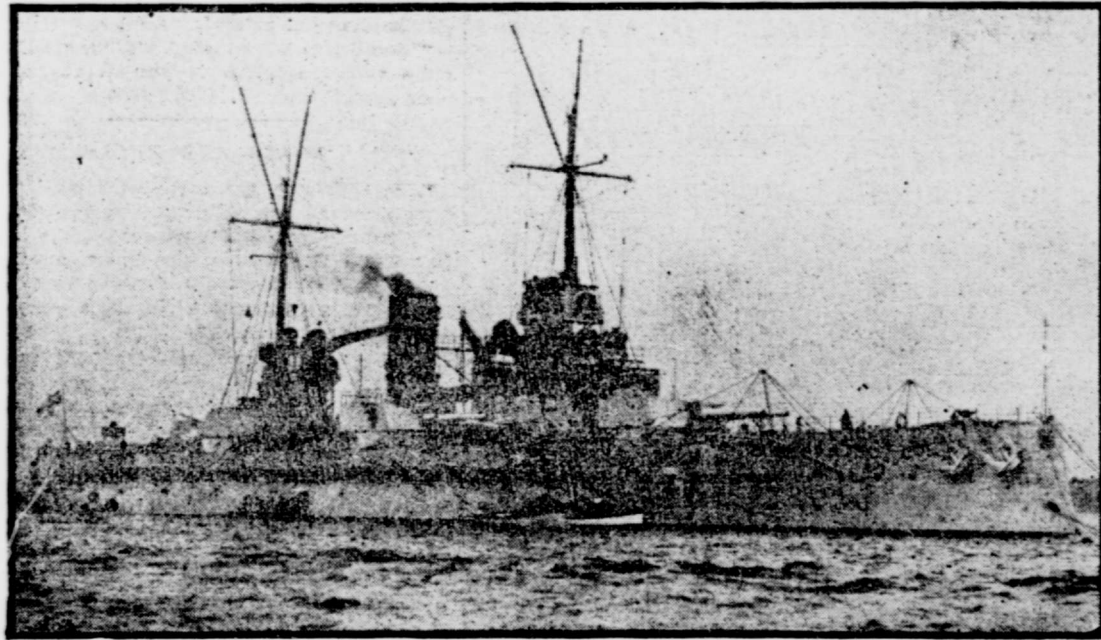
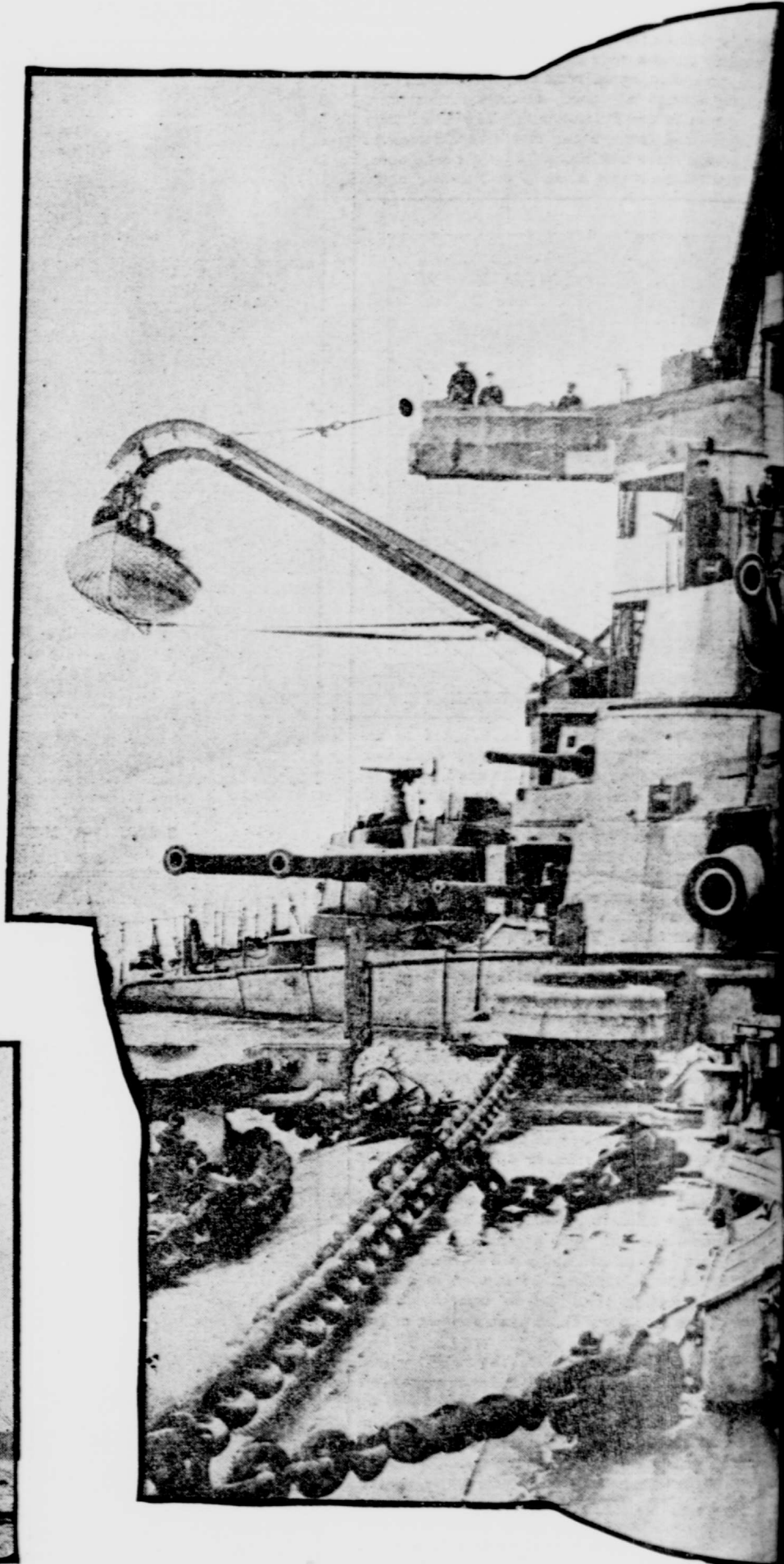
000-ton vessels, carrying twelve 12-inch guns and which will be the largest battleships in the world, are on the ways. Congress is discussing a fourth pair, which may be even larger and carry 14-inch guns.

In other words, the United States is in the race with the other powers.

This race is so strenuous that no sooner does one nation announce the launching of the biggest Dreadnought of all than another proceeds to set a new one afloat. The North Dakota and the Delaware retained their laurels for only a short time. Hardly had they had their steaming trials last fall and demonstrated their superiority over others of their type than the British government launched the Neptune, with a displacement 250 tons greater, and the Vanguard, another British Dreadnought slightly smaller, broke the speed record of the North Dakota of 22.25 knots, by travelling at the rate of 22.4 knots.

When the Utah was launched she was the largest battleship afloat, but a few days ago—and this is the second occurrence of the two referred to—that record was nullified by the launching of the Colossus, number nine of the British fleet of Dreadnoughts to reach the water. The first Dreadnought was 490 feet long and of 17,900 tons. This new one, the first of a group of three vessels of 22,500 tons each, is 545 feet long. The others are the Hercules and the Orion.

Great Britain expects that she will have twelve Dreadnoughts by the year 1912, all available for service, equipped with ten 12-inch guns each and each able to travel at a speed of upward of 22 knots. The vessels of this fleet already afloat are the Dreadnought, the Bellerophon, the Collingwood, the St. Vincent, the Vanguard, the Temeraire, the Superb and the Neptune. Another vessel, to be known as the Lion, a 26,000-ton armored cruiser, which it is expected will be able to travel at a speed of 28 or 29 knots, has been laid down. It may be imagined what the power of the engines of this vessel will be when it is remembered that the speed which the Lusitania and the Mauretania are able to maintain across the ocean is between 25 and 26 knots. Of course, the Lion will not be as large in size as these vessels, although



THE GERMAN DREADNOUGHT NASSAU.

One of four sister battleships of 18,500 tons each, the first of Germany's fleet of Dreadnoughts. The others are the Westfalen, the Rheinland and the Posen.

THE MOST HEAVILY ARMED

The Minas Geraes, Brazil's new Dreadnought, built in England. It is the most heavily armed vessel ever built, and its broadside is sufficient, if properly applied, to sink any other vessel of its class. (Reproduced through the courtesy of the United States Navy.)