

TO INCREASE NAVY.

Fifteen New Warships to Be Built at Once.

Will Be as Fast as the Fastest Vessels Now Building Abroad—To Have Big Coal Capacity.

A naval programme for presentation to congress involving the immediate construction of 16 warships, has been adopted by the naval board of experts to whom the subject has been referred by Secretary Long, says the New York Tribune. It provides for three sea-going barbette turret battleships of 13,000 tons' displacement and a minimum of 18½ knots speed when the vessels are loaded to their deepest draught, or an average speed above 18 knots under ordinary cruising conditions; three first-class armored cruisers of 12,000 tons and 23 knots speed; three second-class protected and armored cruisers of 6,000 tons' displacement and 20 knots speed similar to the Maine type, but highly improved, and for six protected cruisers of 2,500 tons and 16 knots speed.

The reduced speed of the ships, which is uniformly about two knots less than that proposed at the preliminary meeting of the board, was brought about by the desire to secure unprecedented range of action on account of the increased responsibilities of the United States in the Pacific and the certainty that these vessels, or most of them, would be required to make up the fleet in that ocean. The sacrifice of speed to endurance was made with a view of securing vessels of at least 6,000 knots radius, or capable of steaming straight away from San Francisco to Manila and Samoa. The board decided that the Pacific rather than the Atlantic would be the chief theater of American naval operations in the future, and that great sacrifices to the speed could safely be made for vessels attached to the outer line of natural defense on the east coast of the United States, abnormal coal capacity and high economy were prime requisites so long as distant possessions to the westward required protection. All the vessels, however, will be as speedy as the fastest vessels now building abroad, and they will be eminently more practicable in endurance, strength and formidability.

DESCENDANT OF A KING.

Family History of Lieut. Ord. Who Fell Fighting Before Santiago de Cuba.

When Lieut. Jules G. Ord fell before Santiago, fighting with the American army, there died a descendant of a king of England. His grandfather was the son of George IV. Had the law of primogeniture been followed, the young man might have been wearing a crown instead of losing his life in the thick of battle.

The family has been known in America for a century. The first to come here was James Ord, a naval constructor of great ability, who was accompanied by a young man whom he called his nephew, but who was really the son of George IV, king of England. This boy, who took the name of James Ord, founded the house of the name in this country.

He was the father of Judge Pacifico Ord, an eminent jurist in California, who is now living at 1827 I street, N.W., Washington, and Dr. James Ord, who lives in Maryland and whose resemblance to the present prince of Wales has made him famous, as well as Gen. Edward O. C. Ord, who distinguished himself in the civil war.

SEAL LETTERS WITH WAX.

Trouble of the Postal Clerk in Puerto Rico with the Mailbag on Envelope Flaps.

Postmaster Robinson, of Puerto Rico, is experiencing some difficulty in handling the mail matter destined for the soldiers of Gen. Miles' army, because of the hot weather and humidity which prevails there. The mucilage on the flaps of the envelopes becomes moist, which causes the letters to adhere to each other, and in many cases they are mutilated in being torn apart, and some of them are unsealed when they reach the post office. This makes the service unsatisfactory, and Mr. Robinson has requested the department to issue an order requesting persons who communicate by mail with the soldiers in Puerto Rico to use sealing wax in sealing their mail. The department officials have the matter under consideration, and while they may not issue such an order they assert that it would be of advantage to the people if they would act on the suggestion of the postmaster at Puerto Rico.

UNITED STATES ARMY.

Strength of the Standing Forces Is 50,000, an Increase of 22,623 Men.

Col. Ward, assistant adjutant general, estimates the strength of the regular army of this country at 50,000 men. This is an increase of 23,523 men since April 30. At the outbreak of hostilities the standing army of this country consisted of only 26,477 men, which is known as the peace basis. During the months of May, June and July the regular army was increased by 22,523 men. It is understood that as soon as congress meets a bill will be introduced providing for an increase in the regular army of at least 25 regiments.

Music Affects Circulation of the Blood.
It has been proved, as the result of experiments, that the circulation of the blood is affected by music.

LIKE A FAIRY'S REALM.

Original Effects at Mrs. Belmont's Newport Entertainment—Cost Was \$10,000.

For days all Newport has talked of the entertainment given by Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont. The entertainment was given at Crag park, and for years to come all Newport will gossip of its "effects" and originalities.

An electric light plant had been specially set up on the grounds, and all the great park sparkled and glimmered like a bit of fairy land. Then there was an electric merry-go-round, on which society dames and maidens imitated the equestrian feats of the men. There was a cake walk, participated in by the fast-black negroes and negresses. Then followed all the attractions of a country fair, with fakirs crying their wares and nostrums, rogues for a night plying their beguiling trade tricks and fortune tellers dipping into all sorts of futures for those who desired to try their luck in the bright beyond.

Led by Mrs. Belmont, the belles and beau heard what the fortune-tellers had to say of what was in store for them. There was a "wild west show," and the rough riding feats of the frontier. The guests were taken home in lumbering vans sitting on straw. The entertainment is said to have cost \$10,000.

BIG SHIP'S MAIDEN TRIP.

Largest Whaleback in the World Sails Down the Lakes with Cargo.

The largest whaleback ever built, the steamer Alexander McDougall, left the slip at the large works at West Superior, Wis., the other day and went to the Mesaba ore dock to load with 6,000 tons of ore for her maiden trip down the great lakes. Capt. McDougall, the inventor of the whaleback, is of the opinion that boats will soon be going direct from Superior to Europe. He said:

"Next year the new Canadian canal will be opened and it will offer a broader field for lake carriers. Boats carrying 2,000 to 2,200 tons will be able to go direct from Duluth to Montreal and Quebec and thence to England and European ports. The new canal will permit of the passage of boats 270 feet long and drawing 14 feet of water. Vessels of this kind can sail on the lakes during the season of navigation, and can then go to sea and remain there in commission all winter, when freight rates on the ocean will demand it. Within the next five years I expect to see a fleet of at least a hundred boats of this class trading between the offices, and they will soon be blockaded occasionally. With the new service letters may be sent across at any time. It is calculated that there will be a saving altogether in time of nearly an hour. The tubes worked satisfactorily."

The first official test of the new tubes was made in the presence of about 75 officers and guests in the Brooklyn post office.

Capt. Porter, of the United States secret service, says that persons in possession of mutilated coins should send them to the United States mint at Philadelphia, where the silver will be melted and the bullion value of the moneys remitted to the sender. If the coins are but slightly mutilated they will be redeemed, in which case the face value will be given.

A law which was passed last year makes it a crime for anybody to buy, sell or possess mutilated coins with intent to defraud, and it was hoped thereby to put a check on the circulation of defaced or plugged silver pieces. Despite the law on the subject, Capt. Porter believes that there is still a considerable trade done in buying and selling such coins, the dealers usually paying bullion value for the money.

Many of the pieces are subsequently redeemed at the subtreasury for their face value. The profits of such dealers, it is believed, will vanish entirely now that the money can be forwarded to the United States mint and full value obtained.

World's Biggest Hotel.

The sultan is said to have nearly completed the largest hotel in the world at Mecca. This establishment is to hold 6,000 pilgrims at once, with, presumably, their camels and other burdens of burden, and promises to be one of the most picturesque places to stay at in the world, although, of course, infidel dogs are not allowed to approach it. Its vast size has drawn attention to monster residences. The largest dwelling-house in existence is in Vienna, where there is an apartment house with 1,500 rooms in it, occupied by more than 3,000 people. This building has 35 staircases, 13 interior courts, and 850 windows on the street.

Rubber Cooled to Brittleness.

Experiments upon material at low temperature, which have been made possible by the advent of liquid air, develop some unexpected results. A ball of india rubber cooled to the temperature of the air becomes brittle, and if dropped on the floor dies in pieces, while a ball of lead will rebound, having acquired a remarkable increase of elasticity. Lead also makes a very respectable spiral spring at a temperature of 200 or 300 degrees below zero.

Photographs Objects in Darkness.

Dr. W. J. Russell, F. R. S., has now proceeded so far with his discovery of a method of photographing objects without the aid of light that he is hopeful of publishing a paper upon the subject to the Royal society at an early date. He has succeeded in taking no fewer than 2,000 pictures entirely in darkness.

Japan's Periodicals.

Among the 575 periodicals now published in Japan, 111 are scientific, 35 medical and 35 legal.

CAUSES A DISCUSSION.

Appearance of Picture of Marquette on Omaha Exposition Stamps.

The Post Office Department, Replying to a Displeased Correspondent, Tells Why the Selection Was Made.

The question as to the right of Father Marquette to figure as a leading actor in the history of this country has arisen again, in connection with the fact that a picture of Marquette sailing down the Mississippi is borne on the one-cent Omaha exposition stamp.

A correspondent of the post office department recently wrote that he made a search to ascertain what claims Marquette has to the distinction thus given him, with the result that history showed him to have been a foreigner and a Jesuit, but not marked as a man of note either in literature or science. Information was asked as to what his great merit was.

Mr. John P. Merritt, third assistant postmaster general, has written a letter showing why the design was adopted.

He says that the object of the promoters and managers of the trans-Mississippi exposition is to give expression to a commendable pride on the part of the inhabitants to the progress of their section, and to demonstrate its growth, and anything pertaining to the men who were most conspicuous and helpful in blazing the way to these sections, and laying the foundations of civilization, is fraught with great interest. It may be claimed, he says, that Marquette did not discover the Mississippi, but like Amerigo Vespucci, he continued the explorations and America is named after the latter.

"As to the religious belief of Marquette," says Mr. Merritt, "it never entered into or influenced the selection of the device, one way or the other."

"As to the fact of Marquette being a foreigner," continues the reply, "he performed services enough as a pioneer to earn his citizenship, and his bones still lie buried on the west shore of Lake Michigan. Columbus was also a foreigner for that matter."

QUICK SERVICE.

Pneumatic Mail Tubes in Use Now Between New York and Brooklyn.

It takes only two minutes and a half now for a letter to go between New York and the Brooklyn post offices. This is because the new pneumatic tube service over the bridge has begun.

The mail wagons took half an hour between the offices, and they were blocked occasionally.

With the new service letters may be sent across at any time. It is calculated that there will be a saving altogether in time of nearly an hour. The tubes worked satisfactorily.

Previously—The lot of land with all the houses and ameliorations which it contained was sold at auction by the city of New York to a Mr. John C. Glavin, of the firm of Glavin & Co., for \$1,000,000.

The party assembled in the mailing-room on the main floor of the federal building, and the first carrier conveyed a visiting card of each of those present to the office in Manhattan. Half a dozen other carriers were sent shooting across to the sister borough, and the efficiency of the system was established.

Tristram—Until certain lots of land with all the houses and ameliorations which it contained were sold at auction by the city of New York to a Mr. John C. Glavin, of the firm of Glavin & Co., for \$1,000,000.

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