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## LARGEST EVER

### Battleship Nebraska Added to American Navy.

### IS SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED

Fully 50,000 People Viewed the  
Ceremonies—Christened by Miss  
Mickey, Governor's Daughter.

Seattle, Oct. 8.—The battleship Nebraska, destined to be one of the finest fighting machines afloat and already showing in every detail that she will come up to expectations, slid gracefully into the water promptly at two minutes after 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon. The great mass of nearly 15,000,000 pounds of steel moved down the ways as easily and noiselessly as though it were only a diminutive fishing schooner, instead of one of the largest battleships in the world.

The statement that she moved noiselessly may be difficult to prove, for bedlam broke loose almost simultaneously with the Nebraska and wild cheering from 40,000 throats drowned the music of half a dozen bands and made the roar of the big cannon on the United States monitor Wyoming seem faint and far away. Taking up the refrain, whose key was pitched under the building sheds of the yards every steam whistle between Ballard and Black river turned loose and hundreds of craft ranging in size from giant steamships down to launches and every locomotive on the water front added to the music with whistle and bell.

Fully 50,000 people viewed the ceremonies and saw the big vessel slip into the water. She created but a very small wave as she took her maiden plunge, and floated out gently and gracefully. Naval men who viewed the launching stated that it was the most successful they ever saw.

Miss Mary Nain Mickey, daughter of the governor of Nebraska, christened the vessel.

### CLARK, INNOCENT PURCHASER.

### Title Disputed to Land Grants Acquired Fraudulently.

San Francisco, Oct. 16.—The case of the United States against Senator William A. Clark, was argued today before the circuit court of appeals. It came before this bench on an appeal from the circuit court for the district of Montana.

The action is brought to annul 82 land grants under which Clark claims title to timber lands within the state of Montana, on the ground of alleged frauds committed by the patentees in securing the same.

It is charged that the patents were secured under the direction of Robert M. Cobban, who later transferred the land to Clark. Cobban is alleged to have first examined the lands and then hired persons to enter them under the stone and timber act, agreeing to pay them for their services, to defray all their expenses and furnish the purchase price of the lands.

The lower court held that, on such a state of facts, Clark, the innocent purchaser for a valuable consideration, acquired a valid title. The government took the matter on a writ of error to the circuit court of appeals.

### ALASKA CABLE COMPLETED.

### Acting Governor Distin Announces Event by Message.

Seattle, Oct. 10.—Telegraphic communication has now been established between the states and all parts of Alaska. At 7:47 o'clock this afternoon the following official message was received here, announcing the opening of the line:

Sitka, Alaska, Oct. 8, 1904.—The newspapers of Seattle and the Associated Press: The completion of the government cable from Valdez to Sitka, making a complete connection by an all-American line with 46 stations in Alaska, is the beginning of a new era for Alaska. Wagon roads and railroads will open up the greatest mining center of the world. Other industries will quickly follow and insure this country's future prosperity. William L. Distin, acting governor of Alaska.

### To Study American Methods.

San Francisco, Oct. 10.—Yoshio Kinoshita, who fills the important position of general passenger agent of the imperial government railways of Japan, is a guest at the Palace hotel. He has come here to make a thorough study of American railroad methods in so far as they apply to passenger department affairs, before returning to Japan. The purpose of his visit is to familiarize himself with up-to-date methods of handling passenger traffic, with a view to raising the standard of service on the Japanese lines.

### Railroad to Be Electrified.

New York, Oct. 10.—About 100 miles of the Long island railroad system will be equipped with electricity, it is stated, and be ready for operation with that power early next spring. Ultimate it will be possible for a person to take train at the Pennsylvania station, to be built in the heart of Manhattan, and ride without a change of cars or motive power to Manhattan Beach, Rockaway Beach, Far Rockaway, Avenel or intermediate points.

### Russian Troops in Good Health.

Moscow, Oct. 10.—Professor Golovin, of the Red Cross society, who has just returned here from the front, reports the health and general condition of the troops are remarkably good. There are no epidemics, and no very serious disease, the prevailing complaints being a light form of stomach typhus and dysentery.

### PAYNE IS NO MORE.

### Heart Disease Causes the Death of Postmaster General.

Washington, Oct. 6.—Henry C. Payne, postmaster general of the United States, a member of the national Republican committee, a stalwart of his party, with the history of which, in his home state and nationally, he had been identified for many years, died at his apartments at the Arlington hotel at 8:10 last night, aged 60 years. Death was due to disease of the mitral valve and dilation of the heart.

Mr. Payne has been in poor health for at least two years, but his last illness covered only seven days, an attack of heart trouble last week precipitating the end, at a time when, after a rest, he appeared to have recovered a small measure of the vitality impaired by years of arduous labor. Death came after nearly six hours of unconsciousness. The last official caller to inquire as to Mr. Payne's condition was President Roosevelt, and he had been gone only about ten minutes when the stricken member of the cabinet expired.

The death of the postmaster general came as the result really of a succession of sinking spells due to a weak heart that enfeebled the sick man until finally the heart literally gave out. Never in recent years robust, Mr. Payne was unable to withstand the shock of the sinking spells, and last Friday, when he had two sinking spells, it was believed he was rapidly approaching the end. While moderate doses of heart remedies sufficed at first, it became necessary by Sunday to give much more powerful stimulants, and the doses were given in greater quantities than on any previous day.

### SOVEREIGNTY IS RECOGNIZED.

### Diplomats on Isthmus of Panama Will Be Accredited to America.

Washington, Oct. 6.—Chile has formally recognized the absolute sovereignty of the United States over the Panama canal zone. Other nations which have been holding back to await the outcome of the diplomatic test case will do the same. The result will be that practically all the foreign diplomats on the isthmus will be accredited to this country instead of Panama.

Chile some time ago applied for an equatum for Gregorio Osso, who was appointed consul at Panama. The request was withheld, owing to the unsettled condition of affairs. Though this country exercises full control over the canal zone, the land belongs to Panama. Today the secretary of state disposed of the question by issuing the exequatur, but instead of being in the regular form it is a notification to General Davis, governor general of the canal zone, that Mr. Osso is authorized to represent Chile in all diplomatic matters involving the canal strip. This will probably involve further differences between this government and the republic of Panama.

### CORTELYOU WILL SUCCEED HIM.

### He Is Expected to Enter the Office About December 1.

Washington, Oct. 6.—In succession to Mr. Payne, George Bruce Cortelyou, ex-secretary of the department of commerce and labor, and now chairman of the Republican national committee, will become postmaster general.

Mr. Cortelyou's appointment as head of the postoffice department was determined on several months ago by President Roosevelt, when Mr. Payne indicated to the president his desire to retire from the department on account of the precarious state of his health. Mr. Payne would have resigned the portfolio long ago had it not been for the then pending investigation of the affairs of the department. He felt, however, and said many times to his friends, that he could not relinquish the duties of the office while the investigation was pending, and expressed his determination to carry this work to a conclusion.

### Perish in Flood.

Santa Fe, N. M., Oct. 6.—Reports received here from different points in the flooded territory show that the loss of life occurred in the past week is greater than heretofore believed. At least 20 persons perished, and all sections have not been definitely heard from. Ten Santa Fe passenger trains are tied up at Santa Fe tonight, but passengers are being sent east and west over the Rock Island and Southern Pacific roads, connection being effected through the Santa Fe Central, which resumed operations today.

### Believes Confession Not True.

Topeka, Kan., Oct. 6.—Robert Romaine, who confessed to complicity in the Independence and Vindicator outrages in Colorado, was taken to the Kansas penitentiary from here today. He will serve a sentence for robbery. The Colorado officials have decided to drop for the present all notion of prosecuting Romaine for his alleged part in the explosions, as they believe his confession is not true, and made with the sole purpose of evading punishment.

### Japan Does Not Fear Cruisers.

Tokio, Oct. 6.—The navy department discredits the report that the Russian cruisers Rossia, Gromob and Bogaty are about to descend for another raid on the Japanese coast. The navy department further expresses the belief that the Bogaty is completely disabled.

## FIGHT AT SEA

### Russian Fleet at Port Arthur Ventures Out.

### FORT IS EXPECTED TO GIVE UP

Opinion Based on Assertions That  
Squadron Would Make no Sortie  
Until Hope Was Gone.

Tokio, Oct. 7.—Tokio has advised that late yesterday evening a naval battle had occurred at Port Arthur. While no details are obtainable other than that the fight is said to have followed a sortie on the part of the Russian squadron, the belief prevails that there can be no doubt as to the outcome. The Russian vessels, as is well known, are in no condition to meet Admiral Togo's well-equipped and thoroughly repaired fleet. In addition to this, the Russians are greatly inferior in numbers.

A sortie at this time by the Russian fleet would have peculiar significance, as it would indicate the land forces found their position had become untenable, and the fall of the stronghold is now expected to follow quickly. It has been stated on numerous occasions lately, and on the best of authority, that the battle-torn fleet bottled up in the harbor of the Port would make no further attempt to escape, until the last hope of relief or holding out had gone.

### FEARS AN AMERICAN PLOT.

### European Statesmen Believe She Has Designs on Trade.

Paris, Oct. 7.—Some European statesmen are seriously concerned for the economic future of Europe. Certain among them, see, or fancy they see, a deep-laid scheme on the part of the United States for absorbing the commerce of Asia, and appear to think the moment has arrived to issue a serious note of warning.

Today M. Melin, ex-prime minister and leader of the French Protectionists, sounds an alarm in the Republique Francaise in an article entitled "The United States in Asia."

M. Melin says no mistake should be made by Europe. He says it is in the direction of the Far East America is evidently turning its commercial ambition. England, he says, will prefer to throw itself into the arms of the great American republic, which is close to her and may render her service. In conclusion M. Melin says:

"One cannot refrain from rather melancholy reflections on the commercial and economic future of old Europe. The more her industry increases that much more her machinery improves, and the more her warehouses are crammed with goods, just so much the more restricted and narrow her expansion abroad becomes. She now finds herself in the presence of a giant, who, with mighty Japan, is taking away her custom. After having seized a portion of that of South America, the giant is now preparing to deprive her of that of the Yellow races, which is the most important in the world. The issue promises to leave to Europe the negroes of the Sudan and the vast regions of Africa, but until that proves profitable poor Europe will have time to stew in her own juice."

### WILD RACE TO ESCAPE DANGER.

### Blast Furnace Filled With Hot Iron in Wake of Trolley Car.

New York, Oct. 7.—A ten-ton rolling blast furnace filled with hot iron used for the welding of the joints of trolley tracks has been the cause of an exciting ride for a carload of people in Newark, N. J. The furnace became unmanageable on the top of a steep hill, and started down with rapidly increasing speed in the wake of a trolley car bound toward the center of the city. The motorman put on full speed, but the mass of iron and fire gained steadily. When it seemed a disastrous collision was inevitable, the car crew and ten passengers, several of whom were women, held a hurried consultation and decided that the only chance to save their lives was in jumping.

After the race had gone on for a quarter of a mile, with the furnace steadily gaining, the runaway machine swerved and struck an oncoming car. The passengers escaped serious injury.

### Planning to Remove Buildings.

St. Louis, Oct. 7.—Plans are beginning to assume shape for the restoration of Forest park after the conclusion of the Louisiana Purchase exposition. One member of the restoration committee has been appointed in the person of George E. Kessler, who is at present landscape architect for the exposition. Two other members of the committee are yet to be appointed by the directors of the exposition, and it is probable Mayor Wells will appoint a committee of three to co-operate with the fair committee.

### Steel Plates Being Shipped.

Minneapolis, Oct. 7.—Fifty cars of heavy steel plates, intended for the Japanese government, are now being transhipped at Minnesota transfer. They are from the Carnegie company, at Pittsburg, and are consigned to the company's agent in Japan. The plates vary in thickness from half an inch to an inch and a quarter, and are of the kind ordinarily used in the construction of cruisers and torpedo boats.

### Large Oil Plant Burns.

Findlay, O., Oct. 7.—The plant of the National Refining company was burned today. Loss, \$200,000. The fire was started through lightning striking a tank which at the time contained about 80,000 barrels.

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