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A POWERFUL NAVY.

The New Jersey, which was launched at Quincy, Mass., last week, is the fifth and last battleship of her class to be set afloat. That stage in the history of such a vessel usually represents from 50 to 60 per cent of advancement toward completion. More than two years have elapsed since the keel of the New Jersey was laid, but a much shorter period in addition will probably be required for her completion. It is not unreasonable to hope that she and her sisters will be ready for their trial early in 1906.

This class of vessels occupies a position intermediate between the heavily armored cruisers, among which are the Colorado and the West Virginia, and the battleships of the Connecticut class. The New Jersey will displace 15,000 tons when finished and the Connecticut 16,000, while the displacement of the Colorado is 14,500. Another significant characteristic of the vessel which went down the ways yesterday is that she is expected to develop a speed of nineteen knots, or one more than the leviathan that was launched at the Brooklyn yard a few weeks ago. In that respect there is a second point of resemblance to the fleetfooted Colorado. When the members of all three groups are ready for service the American navy will have eighteen of the best fighting ships in the world, besides those already in commission.

Dispatches from Washington report that the general board has recommended to Secretary Morton a program in which three new battleships are included. Inasmuch as homogeneity is looked upon as highly advantageous, the board has decided to advise adherence to the Connecticut type for the present. There has been some talk in Washington about a battleship having a displacement of 18,000 tons and mounting nothing smaller than guns of 8 or 10 inches calibre. The idea may not have been abandoned, but it is at least held in abeyance. Should the secretary of the navy approve the suggestion just made, and should congress provide the necessary money at the next session, the contracts might be let by midsummer and actual work begun a few weeks later. If the same progress is made in construction that has been effected with the Connecticut, the new battleships might be completed before the close of 1908.

STATE AND CHURCH.

One of the greatest boons our form of government confers upon the people is the absolute separation of church and state, and all efforts to make the former body paramount must fail as long as the American people retain that sense of vigilance which is declared to be the price of liberty. In recent years attempts, more or less covert, have been made to combine the two, in the interest of the spiritual body, but the reception they met with was not encouraging, says the Brooklyn Standard Union. The most recent was at the Episcopal general convention, at Indianapolis, where one of the delegates, with the title of "general," moved to appoint a committee of clergymen and laymen for the purpose of memorializing the legislative bodies of the various states "in the interest of laws restricting the performance of marriages to ministers of the gospel."

Probably the mover did not realize the full scope of his resolution, which was, in fact, revolutionary, since it would debar many non-church members, who do not believe in ministers, yet are good, law-abiding citizens, from contracting marriage, which they can now do by the civil form, through certain duly authorized magistrates, marriage being regarded by the state as a civil function and not necessarily a sacrament, as held by certain sects of the Christian church. It is a concession to the sentiments of many that clergymen are empowered by the state to perform the marriage ceremony, as magistrates, although many persons are not aware of that distinction. Some races, like those of the European continent, employ both the civil and the religious ceremony in contracting marriage, and the "high contracting parties" are careful to have the civil one first. In this country, among native Americans, the minister-magistrate is preferred to the civil one, largely as a tradition of the fathers.

Of course no legislature would for a moment consider so radical a measure as the one proposed by this Episcopal delegate, as it would be conferring on the church powers never contemplated by the fathers of the republic, and to that extent an infringement on the liberty of the individual. Any action of that

sort by a legislature would, without doubt, result seriously to that body. In our land church and state are two, or rather, the state is "the" one, while the church has many forms. This is well, since it gives scope for that freedom of opinion in matters non-essential on which Americans justly pride themselves, while uniting them on the one thing essential, the sovereignty of the people.

TREES FOR CITY PLANTING.

The citizens of Sumas observed Arbor day in a manner that many treeless cities might emulate, says the Post-Intelligencer. Business was generally suspended and everybody engaged in the work of beautifying the city by planting native forest trees. Men were sent into the mountains to take up the large maples and haul them to the city. One force of experts dug the holes while another crew sawed the lumber for boxing the trees after they were planted. By making the occasion a general holiday and getting all the men to work, four of the principal streets were ornamented.

Visitors making their first tour of the northwest comment on the desolation of cities having no ornamental shade trees. They see the real treeless plains in the wheat fields and wonder why people living in cities do not attempt to break the monotony by planting trees. To the ordinary man of the eastern states a home without trees is only a temporary abiding place. It belongs only to the nomadic plainsmen and does not indicate any degree of modern civilization. That is the view some western citizens have taken, and are trying to remedy the evils.

THE FRENCHMAN AS A PEACEMAKER.

We see the Frenchman today in a role he never before essayed to ply in the thousand years of his country's history. In the world's politics the Frenchman is now the man of peace. Deleasse has prevented a war between Russia and England. It was France's foreign minister that came to the fore and found a peaceful solution of a problem that promised war, says the Examiner.

That France may have had a selfish interest in maintaining the European peace is true, but when it comes to war the Frenchman has not always consulted his own interests. From Chalons to Sedan the Frenchman has usually been the apostle of blood and iron. War was the first thought, and the French diplomat came to the front only to exact a tribute for victory or pay the smallest indemnity in defeat. The military man down to seventy always was in the ascendant. The saints of France were soldiers, and her cardinals were great only when, like Richelieu, they made war. Her warrior kings were her heroes.

Deleasse assumes a new place in French history. He is a product of the republic, and if the French republic is to work for the peace of Europe, France is beginning an era of her history that will be more glorious than even those when Turenne and Conde commanded her armies or when Napoleon made the nation the terror of Europe.

In Russia's last war with England the Frenchman was England's ally and bore the brunt of the fighting. Now France is Russia's ally; but she elects to play the role of a peacemaker.

Deleasse having prevented war between England and Russia, might be the man of the hour to bring about the end of the war between Russia and Japan.

The city of Los Angeles has plans laid for converting a tract of 3000 acres of brush land into a commercial park. At present it is neither ornamental nor profitable. By planting good hardwood timber varieties it is argued that in a few years there will be an income from the forest, and the beauty will not be marred by selling a portion of the timber. Such plantings have been conducted for many years in foreign countries. Good results may be expected wherever proper methods are adopted.

Tree planting on Puget sound should be an easy method of city ornamentation. It is the natural land of trees. All varieties, both deciduous and evergreen, grow to perfection. There is no reason why every city should not have plenty of every variety. The native trees are suited for all conditions. They have no superiors for street planting. They can be had for the expense of transferring from their homes in the mountains. Let the local Arbor day of every city be celebrated by planting native trees on the streets.

Mr. Himes' letter bears out what we have repeatedly stated—that Clatsop county should be the center of the coast's greatest dairying industry. United, determined effort is surely necessary to bring about proper development of dairying here, but, in view of the progress recently made, it is not unreasonable to suppose that the people of the county will soon awake to realization of the dairying possibilities of this section.

Henry Watterson interprets the election "as the discharge of the existing generation of Democratic leaders from the public service." It looks as though the party itself, as well as the leaders, had been discharged.

Really, the Philippines are making rapid progress toward self-government. A straw vote at Manila gave Roosevelt 606 votes to 311 for Parker.

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Swell Togs
For Men.

THE BIG CORN CROP.

Yield of 2,454,531,000 Bushels is indicated.

New York, Nov. 15.—The monthly crop report issued by the department of agriculture yesterday, as figured by Statistician Brown, of the Produce Exchange, indicates a yield of corn of 2,454,531,000 bushels, comparing with last month's estimate of 2,463,700,000 bushels and with the harvest in 1903 of 2,244,176,626 bushels. The average an acre is 26.7 bushels, as compared with an average of 25.5 bushels in 1903, 26.8 bushels in 1902 and a 10-year average of 24.2 bushels. The general average as to quality is 56.2 bushels, compared with 53.1 last year, 56.7 in 1902, and 73.7 in 1901. It is estimated that about 8.6 per cent of the corn crop of 1903 remained in the hands of farmers on November 1 this year, against 5.2 per cent in 1903, 1.9 per cent in 1902 and 4.6 per cent in 1901.

The estimate of the average yield of buckwheat is 18.9 bushels an acre, as against 17.7 bushels in 1903, 18.1 bushels in 1902, and a 10-year average of 17.9 bushels. The average for quality is 91.5 per cent, against 91.4 last year, 88.1 in 1902 and 93.3 in 1901.

Doesn't Respect Old Age.

It's shameful when youth fails to show proper respect for old age, but just the contrary in the case of Dr. King's New Life Pills. They cut off maladies no matter how severe and irrespective of old age. Dyspepsia, Jaundice, Fever, Constipation, all yield to these perfect pills. 25c. at Chas. Rogers' drug store.

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SOME SCHOOL STATISTICS.

Men Are Getting Out of the Profession Very Rapidly.

Nine per cent of the entire population of the United States attended the public schools during the fiscal year ending June 30. This is shown by the report of the secretary of the interior, which states that 16,069,631 pupils were enrolled. The cost was \$22.75 per capita per pupil, and \$3.15 per capita of the total population of the country. The expense has increased and the attendance has slightly decreased. One of the features of the report is that the number of male teachers has decreased to 26 per cent of the entire number, and that the average compensation for male teachers was but \$49.98 and \$40.51 for females. With such small salaries as these it is surprising that there are people willing to accept the position. With the brains necessary to teach an individual should be able to command about twice the salary in any other profession.

Save the La Imperial band and get the diamond stud.

GENERAL FOCK IS THE HERO.

He, Not Stoessel, is Making Remarkable Stand at Port Arthur.

London, Nov. 15.—The correspondent at Tokio of the Times says that all accounts from Port Arthur concur in attributing the merit for the stubborn defense which is still being maintained to General Fock, who commands the Russian left.

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