

A BRILLIANT SCENE.

THE LAUNCHING OF THE RALEIGH.

Gala Day in Norfolk and Portsmouth. Beautiful Sight and Impressive Ceremonies—Honors to Governor Holt.

NORFOLK, March 31.—[Special.]—Twas a queenly pageant, the launching of the Raleigh yesterday. Norfolk and Portsmouth made it a gala day and a holiday, and the scene was never witnessed in Southern waters. It was a glorious day for the Norfolk navy-yard and an epoch in the history of Virginia waters.

HONORS TO GOVERNOR HOLT.

The two cities were up and astir at early morning with their large populace and vast throng of visitors. The ceremonies commenced on the Norfolk side with the honors to the distinguished guests of North Carolina. At 10:45 A. M. the Fourth regiment under Colonel Nash, the Norfolk Blues and Grimes battery, marched to the Atlantic Hotel to escort Governor Holt of that State, his aids and the North Carolina Naval Reserve, to the navy-yard, all these were in carriage. The Edgemoor Guards, a splendid company from Tarboro, also formed a part of the imposing escort.

SCENES ON THE WATER.

While these movements were taking place on land the movements on the water were yet more active. Every steamer, tug and sail-boat in the vicinity of Elizabeth river was turned into an excursion boat. The assembly in the Western Branch an hour before the launching was a scene of stir, maneuver and tangle. A large number of boats were crowded with spectators, and the many colored flags flying from every mast gave a bright and picturesque appearance to the moving panorama. The movements of hundreds of sail vessels under a strong wind, beating up the river, was a curious sight, and the narrow escapes they made from collision very exciting.

AT THE NAVY-YARD.

The navy-yard gates were closed to visitors until 9:30 o'clock, and at that hour the crowd which had been congregating since 8 o'clock made a rush through the portals and continued to fill every point of vantage until after 11 o'clock, when it was estimated that 40,000 people thronged the grounds. The river was filled with vessels of all classes, from the palace steamers down to the row boats, all bent on getting positions to witness the great event.

One of the first to arrive was the Hon. B. F. Tracy, Secretary of the Navy, who was escorted to the launch by the Hon. J. M. W. H. Wood and Lieutenant Niles. These were followed by the rest of the visitors from North Carolina, Judge D. Tucker Brooke and Major Washington Taylor, representing the city of Norfolk, and Lieutenant Commander Hines and Lieutenant Niles. These were followed by the rest of the visitors from North Carolina, Judge D. Tucker Brooke and Major Washington Taylor, representing the city of Norfolk, and Lieutenant Commander Hines and Lieutenant Niles.

At 10 o'clock the whistle blew and all work was suspended, and those of the employees who cared to go to the launch left in boats. They had a good view of all that was going on.

Shortly after 10 o'clock Commodore Weaver, with every officer in the yard in special full dress uniform, assembled at the main portal, while the marine battalion and Naval Post band were drawn up in line awaiting the arrival of Governor Holt and his party. At 10:15 o'clock the Governor and party halted at the gateway, and were met outside by Commodore Weaver and aids and escorted into the yard in the following order: Governor Holt and Commodore Weaver, Mrs. Holt, Captain of the Marine Guard, Major H. W. Wood and Lieutenant Niles. These were followed by the rest of the visitors from North Carolina, Judge D. Tucker Brooke and Major Washington Taylor, representing the city of Norfolk, and Lieutenant Commander Hines and Lieutenant Niles.

As the first gun of a salute was fired Commodore Weaver uncovered his head and said to Governor Holt: "That is in honor of you, sir." The Governor replied pleasantly and remained uncovered until the guns ceased firing.

NOTABLES PRESENT.

Among those on the launching stand were the following: Hon. B. F. Tracy, Secretary of the Navy; Commodore Farthar, United States Navy; Lieutenant W. S. Cowles, United States Navy; Congressman Sherman, Hon. John F. Andrews and George F. Williams, of Massachusetts, and Congressman Ben. T. Cabell, of Illinois; Bishop J. K. Keane, of the Catholic University; Hon. J. M. W. H. Wood, Postmaster at H. Landay, ex-Congressman John F. Dezenzier, Mr. S. S. Nottingham, James A. Kerr, Colonel C. A. Nash, Major Washington Taylor, Lieutenant-Colonel Harry Hodges, Judge D. Tucker Brooke, Mayor Marsh, W. H. Jackson, of the Pennsylvania, whose mills furnish the steel for the cruisers. Among the ladies were Mrs. Holt, wife of the Governor; Mrs. A. W. Haywood, daughter of Governor Holt; Mrs. William Smith, Mrs. B. F. Haywood, Miss C. Laird, Miss Bessie Tucker, Mrs. Stewart Cranch, Mrs. John H. Winder, Miss Rebecca Schenck, Miss Smith, Miss Weaver and Miss Crowell.

The christening stand was at the bow of the Raleigh slightly above the launching stand, and suspended from it a bottle of wine was attached to the bottle of wine beautifully decorated with ribbons, the bottle being held in position by a golden spear.

AN ACCIDENT.

Just a few minutes before the launching a canvas tool house on the south side of the Raleigh, on which were perched seventy-five people, fell in with a crash, causing great excitement. The crowd soon removed to the wreckage and it was found that a number of people were hurt. Dr. Winslow, surgeon of the yard, had prepared for any emergency and the dispensary was fitted up with all the necessary instruments and ready prepared for any emergency. When the injured ones had been gotten out and carried to the surgeon's office it was found that Mr. William (Bud) Savage, a member of the Lee Rifles, had his arm badly sprained, while a dozen others received painful cuts and bruises.

DEATH KNELL OF THE TERMINAL.

It is estimated that her cost completed, including armament and equipment, will be \$3,018,915.74.

ITALY MAY PARTICIPATE.

Rome, March 31.—Premier Rudini has written a letter approving the proposed plan of Italy in the Balkans, and the moral support of the Government. The Government, he said, would facilitate in every possible manner the transportation and safe keeping of the Italian ships.

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Mr. Morgan said if the Senator from Ohio (Mr. Sherman) was ready to have these resolutions adopted he hoped he would be quite as ready after Mr. Morgan and others had had the opportunity to express their opinion upon it. He would, of course, respect the Senator to vote for them then, and was much gratified at the situation, trusting that the Senator would also be very prompt in bringing in his report and recommending specific action upon them.

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DARING TRAIN ROBBERY.

ON THE GEORGIA PACIFIC ROAD.

A Passenger Train Held Up by Masked Men and the Mail Car Robbed of Eighty.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., March 31.—The passenger train which left here at midnight for Atlanta on the Georgia Pacific railroad was held up by masked robbers at 1 o'clock this morning near Weems, ten miles east of here.

As the train moved away from the station a robber boarded the engine and covered the engineer with a rifle, compelling him to stop the train on a trestle. One man stood guard over the engineer and fireman, while several others opened fire on the inside of the train in order to frighten the passengers.

BROKE INTO THE MAIL CAR.

Another robber knocked on the door of the mail car, demanding admittance, which was refused. He then broke open the door, fring at the postal clerk, who was slightly wounded. Every registered letter in the car, supposed to contain about two thousand dollars, was taken.

The express car was not molested. The entire robbery was done in eight minutes, during which time several of the gang kept up a fire inside of the train and the mail car. Quincy Adams came near being killed. The engineer says the robber on the engine was a white man, and the postal clerk says the man who robbed him was a mulatto.

CLOCK OF THEIR TRAIL.

Officers with blood hounds are close on the trail of the robbers.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

Near Evergreen, Ala., on the Louisville and Nashville railroad, early this morning a freight train broke in two and three wild cars ran back and collided with the north-bound express. R. M. Lyons, of Atlanta, was a mail-wagon driver, returning home from New Orleans, was instantly killed. Express Messenger Archie Johnson and Engineer Patrick, both of Montgomery, were seriously hurt, and Postal Clerk Thomas Wright was injured. Money, baggage and mail cars were demolished.

THOMAS N. FERREL KILLED.

Succumbs to an Injury in Detroit—A Band of Burglars at Work.

DANVILLE, Va., March 31.—[Special.]—A telegram received here this morning from Detroit, Mich., announcing that Thomas N. Fer