

# THE RIVER PRESS.

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### THE MINNESOTA.

#### The Largest Ship Ever Built In This Country Is Successfully Launched.

NEW LONDON, Conn., April 16.—In the presence of thousands of spectators, including many visitors from New York, Boston and other cities, the steamship Minnesota, the largest vessel ever built in this country, and the greatest cargo carrier in the world, was launched today at the yards of the Eastern Shipbuilding company at Groton. The sponsor of the mammoth ship was Miss Clara Hill, daughter of J. J. Hill, president of the Great Northern Steamship company, for whom the vessel was built, to become part of the company's Pacific and Oriental carrying service. As the last restraining link that held the ship to its place on the ways was severed, Miss Hill broke a bottle of wine over the steel bow and named the craft Minnesota. With a gliding movement, barely perceptible at first, the vast mass of steel, weighing thousands of tons, started down the ways, and, gathering speed rapidly, plunged into the water with a wave under her stern that seriously threatened the safety of hundreds of small craft in the harbor. Although her momentum seemed sufficient to carry her far over to the other side of the harbor, the precautions taken to slack her speed were sufficient to bring her to a standstill within a mile of the Groton shore. Tugs then took her in tow and she was guided to the dock, where she will be fitted up for service.

After the launching luncheon was served to guests of the shipbuilding company in the yard.

### The Irish Land Bill.

DUBLIN, April 16.—By a unanimous vote the Irish national convention which met here today, accepted in principle the Irish land bill introduced in the house of commons by Mr. Wyndham, chief secretary for Ireland, and entrusted to John Redmond and his party the task of securing in the house of commons several amendments in various points in view of the importance which the national convention may consider essential. The convention will outline the shape that the amendments should take tomorrow and on Saturday Lord Dunraven, the lord mayor, Captain Shawe Taylor, John Redmond, William O'Brien and T. W. Russell at likely to meet at a round table conference to discuss the landlords' and tenants' opinions on the land bill and try to arrive at a common basis of parliamentary action. Today's proceedings at the convention revealed discontent with various features of the bill, but nothing so serious as to indicate danger of its ultimate rejection. Even Michael Davitt, who had an opportunity of dividing the delegates into two bitterly opposing camps and who, amidst dramatic excitement, subordinated his own views, pledged himself to abide by the verdict. John Redmond and Wm. O'Brien, triumphed over all objections; indeed, the objectors, save Michael Davitt, were scarcely given a hearing by the delegates.

### Too Many Candidates.

NEW ORLEANS, April 16.—In consequence of the large number of local candidates in the present Mississippi campaign, between 5,000 and 6,000 in all, the farmers in many of the counties have abolished the time-honored usage in Mississippi that the farmer shall entertain every candidate, his horse included, who comes to him to explain the political situation and solicit his vote.

The burden, always born willingly in the past, has become grievous this year, and especially in consequence of the failure of the corn crop, for the entertainment of horses is expensive. In Leake county, the farmers have agreed to house and feed the candidates, but to charge for the horses. In Warren and other counties, at the request of the farmers, the local candidates have agreed to make no house-to-house canvass, but to go before the voters on their merits, both candidates and farmers saving by this agreement.

### Hell'd Girls Strike.

BUTTE, April 16.—Every girl of the Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone company to the number of about 25 in this city last evening went on a strike because of the alleged discrimination of the company against the operators who have become members of a recently organized union. The trouble commenced about three weeks ago when the girls claimed that the company was discharging members of the

union without cause and supplanting them with imported girls.

Several days ago the head operator at the long distance board was dismissed and the employees threatened to go on a strike unless she was immediately reinstated. Today the crisis came when a report reached this city that 11 girls had been sent from Salt Lake City by the telephone company to take the places of the present employees and at about 5:30 o'clock 30 of the girls went out. Three young ladies were induced by the management to remain at the board for about three hours when they too were won over by the striking misses.

The scene tonight at the telephone exchange was one of excitement, the striking girls and the labor delegations having surrounded the telephone building and posted pickets to prevent the Salt Lake girls being smuggled into the building before a chance to confer with them has been had. The girls declare they are for a night of it.

### Will Not Be Moved.

KALISPELL, April 16.—So much has been said regarding the probability of the Great Northern removing its line of railroad between Kalispell and Jennings when the Columbia Falls road is connected with the Jennings branch that at this time a few facts are well worth presenting. It has been said that the new line, would be over the main line and that no more overland trains would be run on the old line west from Kalispell.

From fifteen to twenty billion feet of lumber must come to market over the Great Northern from the vast tract of timber in the western part of the county. While Mr. Vogle, the timber cruiser for the Blackfoot Mining company, was in the city a few days ago he was asked what would be the probable amount of freight charges which the Great Northern would collect and receive from the shipment of this timber alone, and his answer was that it would receive about \$18,000,000. This is only one item of many that might be referred to, but this one alone will suffice to allay all apprehension about the matter of removing this line. The very thought of such a thing is absurd.

It is the opinion of conservative business men that the line west from Kalispell will never be removed and it can be safely said that it will be maintained in the future as it has been in the past, and that both freight and passenger trains will continue to use the line.

The charter from the state alone would prevent such a move upon the part of the company if it were in any wise inclined to take the step.

### The Irish Land Bill.

DUBLIN, April 17.—The national convention called by the United Irish league to consider the new land bill, which assembled here yesterday, reconvened early today in the round room of the mansion house. There was a smaller attendance. In view of a misunderstanding in the case of certain English papers, John Redmond introduced a strong home rule resolution declaring that the Irish nation would never be satisfied until it obtained a full measure of self-government. "No substitute," said Mr. Redmond, "can or will be accepted."

Michael Davitt briefly seconded the resolution, saying Irishmen would be neglecting their sacred duty to the cause if they did not send such a message to their race throughout the world. Mr. Redmond's recommendations were carried by acclamation.

Mr. O'Brien then proceeded to explain the various suggestions for amendments to the land bill. An amendment of Mr. O'Brien providing for extending financial assistance to the evicted tenants was welcomed, but many of the delegates wished it to go further.

### Scores the President.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., April 17.—The Western New York Old Maid's convention was opened yesterday in the village of Pittsford. Miss Amelia Higginson, president, in her opening address said:

"President Roosevelt believes in the rearing of large families. He has a right to his opinion, but when he places childlessness in the same category with criminal acts, he goes too far. The president is the father of what we Americans would call a large family. He is not the mother of a large family. We have heard nothing about race suicide from the mothers of America, and we never shall. Let the president grapple with the trusts, the tariff and the coming election. They are more in his line. He can safely leave the question of babies in the hands of the women of this great republic."

### WARSHIP TAKES WATER.

#### The Cruiser West Virginia Is Successfully Launched.

NEWPORT NEWS, April 18.—The cruiser West Virginia was launched this afternoon. Calvin B. Orcutt, president of the Newport News Shipbuilding company, escorted to the christening platform Miss Catharine Vaughan White, eldest daughter of Governor Albert B. White of West Virginia, who was officially invited by the navy department to be sponsor for the West Virginia. Miss White was attended by three maids of honor, her sisters, Miss Grace White and Miss Ethel White, and Miss Ashton Wilson, daughter of former Governor Wilson. In the christening party were also the governor and Mrs. White.

As soon as the ceremonies were over, President Orcutt conducted the guests, numbering some 500 persons, to the steamboat Newport News, aboard which the party went to Old Point Comfort, where they were tendered a banquet in the diningroom of the Hotel Chamberlain. Among the distinguished guests present were Governor White of West Virginia and military staff, Governor Montague of Virginia and staff, officers of the army and navy and prominent citizens of the two Virginias. President Orcutt was toastmaster.

The West Virginia, which is a sister ship to the California and Pennsylvania, is an armored cruiser of 14,000 tons displacement. The hull is of steel and measures on load water line 502 feet, extreme beam 69 feet 6 inches. The vessel has a normal displacement of 13,676 tons, with all ammunition and stores on board of 15,104 tons. The designated indicated horsepower of the cruiser is 23,000 to produce a speed of 22 knots. With a complement of 47 officers and 783 seamen and marines, the vessel will be the floating home of 830 men.

Five feet below and four feet above normal load line from stem to stern the cruiser will have an armor belt of six inches thick at the top and five inches at the bottom. For a depth of six feet from the top the maximum thickness will be preserved. The armor will taper at the stem and stern to three and one-half inches in thickness. The Hibborn balanced oval turrets will be covered with armor 6 inches thick on the port plate and six inches on the sides and rear.

The main battery will consist of four eight-inch breechloading rifles, mounted two in each turret on the centerline of the vessel. In addition there will be fourteen six-inch rapid fire guns, besides four one-pound automatic guns, four one-pound rapid fire guns, six Colt automatic guns, two machine guns and two three-inch field guns.

### Right-of-Way Deeds Filed.

KALISPELL, April 17.—Right-of-way agents for the Great Northern have filed with the county clerk and recorder sixty-five deeds for rights-of-way for the new line northward and forty-five more will be filed as soon as the required signatures are secured.

When these are filed the entire right-of-way will have been secured, except the eight parcels of land against which condemnation proceedings have been instituted.

Mr. Clay, the agent here, has orders to purchase all the rights-of-way for both the northern and the southern lines. He is nearly through with one part of his work, and soon will be at work upon the southern line.

### Money for the Philippines.

PHILADELPHIA, April 17.—There are ready for shipment to the Philippines 2,500,000 pesos coined at the Philadelphia mint in the last 25 working days.

The coinage in this case is equal to the minting of the same number of American dollars, and it thus required the handling of an average of 100,000 pesos daily for the 25 days. During this time the mint also added to the Philippine coinage 9,100,000 pieces of bronze, valued at \$91,000, and 3,600,000 nickels, valued at \$180,000.

Superintendent Laydis said the work done was remarkable, when it is taken into consideration the recent depletion of the force.

### Murder Mystery Solved.

NEW CASTLE, Wyo., April 19.—The mystery surrounding the disappearance several weeks ago of J. W. Church, and his wife, have been cleared up by the confession of "Sin" Clifton. Clifton admits that he killed them and has told the authorities where the bodies were buried by him. When confronted with evidence recently unearthed, Clifton broke down

and confessed. Clifton is a rancher and lived near the Churches.

Clifton said that after murdering the Churches and hiding their bodies in a granary on the Church ranch temporarily he hauled them two miles away and buried them. Before doing so he stripped the bodies of jewelry, which he afterward had made over into a ring for himself. He then drew up bills of sale in Church's name and disposed of the stock and some of the household goods, all the while making his abode on the Church ranch. Clifton claims that he killed the couple in self defense, shooting the woman first. It had been reported that Church and Clifton had had trouble over advances made to Mrs. Church by Clifton. Feeling is high in the neighborhood of the crime, which is southwest of Gillette, about 20 miles, and it is feared an attempt will be made to lynch Clifton.

### Repairing Shamrock III.

WEYMOUTH, April 18.—The Shamrock is being rapidly overhauled. The destruction of the standing gear was almost complete. Everything above the deck must be renewed. The present object is not salvage, but to clear away the wreckage as quickly as possible. It is thought \$25,000 will cover the loss. Lipton is sore and stiff from injuries received in the accident, but is recovering.

Thanks to the smooth water Shamrock III's mast was secured by evening and towed to the harbor. Designer Fife and Mr. Ward will inspect the mast tomorrow and decide if she can be repaired. The yacht will leave for Southampton tomorrow.

Sir Thomas Lipton has received a cablegram from Vice Commodore Bourne, of the New York Yacht club, offering to postpone the races. A conference was held between Sir Thomas, Mr. Fife, Mr. Ward, Colonel Sharrman-Crawford, vice commodore of the Royal Ulster Yacht club, Captain Wringe and Captain Bevis, and tonight Sir Thomas sent his reply. It is understood that he has declined the extension offered. Mr. Fife has expressed his satisfaction that the hull of the challenger was not injured. Telegrams expressing sympathy for the accident continue to be received from distinguished persons in America and England. Messages have come in, among others, from the duke of Argyll, W. F. Jameson, August Belmont, Seawanhaka Yacht club and Columbia Yacht club.

### A German Idea of Americans.

BERLIN, April 18.—The delegation of estate owners which agricultural societies are sending to America will leave Friday on the Hamburg liner Etruria. The party, which numbers forty-six, includes two Bohemian counts.

In a pamphlet containing traveling directions, which has been distributed to the party, light clothing is recommended for the summer.

"The American," the pamphlet says, "wears light trousers, a leather belt, a short and light jacket. All business visits, even by high persons, are made in traveling suits. Only at festival dinners are evening clothes worn."

The travelers are urged to take their own cigars, as they "cannot buy anything smokeable under 10 cents."

The program made out by the United States department of agriculture for May and June requires 7,000 miles of traveling to the Pacific coast and return.

### Cup Challenger Injured.

WEYMOUTH, April 17.—Sir Thomas Lipton's new challenger for the America's cup was dismasted in a squall today, shortly after leaving this harbor preparatory to another trial spin with the Shamrock I. Her mast, as it fell over the side, carried several of the crew and all the gear and canvas overboard. One man was drowned and several persons, including Sir Thomas, who was knocked down a hatchway, were bruised or otherwise injured. The man who was drowned was a brother-in-law of Captain Wringe. He was handing a binocular glass to Sir Thomas at the time he was swept overboard. One of Sir Thomas' hands was injured but not seriously.

### Free Lunch Soup is Bad.

CHICAGO, April 19.—Thirteen men were poisoned tonight by eating soup in a saloon at 59 Herne avenue. The soup was set out by the proprietor of the saloon as part of a "free lunch," and nearly all the men in the place partook of it. In a short time it was necessary to take several of them to a hospital. Three of them were in a serious condition.

### RANGE WAR IMMINENT.

#### Serious Trouble Threatened Between Sheepmen and Cattlemen.

CHEYENNE, Wyo., April 20.—Sheepmen of the Sweetwater country have declared open war upon the cattlemen and a clash is imminent unless steps are at once taken to get the warring factions together on a proposition of satisfactory division of the ranges of that section. Sheriff Charles Stough of Lander has gone to the range country to investigate and if he finds the condition of affairs as alarming as has been reported he will immediately make a formal request of the governor for at least one company of state militia to patrol the range. Recently the sheepmen of the Sweetwater country have received copies of a circular letter notifying them that sheep would not be permitted to graze within certain boundaries. The Fremont County Woolgrowers' association has adopted resolutions holding accountable to any member of the association whose personal and property rights shall be violated, the person and property of the "dead-liner" and pledging full financial and moral support to the defense of the lives and property and members of the association. The resolutions characterize the drawing of "dead lines" as a violation of federal and state statutes and call upon both federal and state officials, other woolgrowers' associations and all persons interested for assistance.

BUTTE, April 20.—A Miner special from Red Lodge says according to a report that comes from Red Lodge from the vicinity of Carbonado and Joliet, conditions in that neighborhood are ripe for serious trouble between cattlemen and sheepmen. It seems that the cattlemen have formed a sort of pool, owners of something over 1,000,000 head of cattle being involved, and have issued an ultimatum that sheepmen shall no longer be permitted to range their flocks in a stretch of fine grazing country about twelve miles long, between Shane's Ridge and Silecia.

The cattlemen held a meeting in Joliet and all bound themselves to support the cattlemen by force of arms if necessary. They have hired a man named Albert Sauneifer, a quarter-breed Indian, to patrol the section involved, armed, and he is instructed, it is claimed, to permit no sheepman to graze his flocks.

If any desire to trail through the country, Sauneifer is to accompany them and see that they do not stop by the way. It is understood that in case he has trouble with a refractory sheepman, Sauneifer is to notify all the members of the pool and they will rally to his assistance. They will then put the objectionable sheep off the coveted range by peaceful means, if possible, otherwise by force.

### No Offense Intended.

BERLIN, April 18.—The German press does not distinguish between the visit of the United States European squadron to Marseilles and the program planned for the United States North Atlantic squadron on behalf of which the American government declined an invitation to visit Kiel during the coming regatta there.

Therefore some wonder is expressed as to why "special honors" are shown the French president by the American navy, immediately following the refusal of the German emperor's request."

One or two papers express themselves bitterly on the subject and say the Germans "do not miss much in not having a sight of the American ships."

WASHINGTON, April 18.—As telegraphed yesterday the Associated Press was authorized on the highest authority to make this statement of the position of the navy department in the matter of the visit of the United States European squadron to Marseilles:

"Nothing was further from the mind of Secretary Moody or the Washington government than giving offense to Germany by extending an inappropriate courtesy to a sovereign of a friendly nation. The suggestion came from the state department that the squadron go to Marseilles in time to greet President Loubet, especially as it would touch there to take on board the new commander-in-chief, Rear Admiral Cotton. As regards the visit of the American men-of-war to Kiel, no invitation reached the navy department from Berlin for the European squadron to go there."

On the same high authority it is stated that had such an invitation come it would have been accepted.

### Defects in Battleship Maine.

WASHINGTON, April 17.—While denying that the battleship Maine has developed the slightest structural

weakness, using the term "structural" in its technical sense, high officials at the navy department are not disposed to minimize the defects of the Maine as reported by Captain Leutze and other officers of the vessel. The report of the chief engineer regarding the boilers, it is admitted, furnishes ground for greater concern than the matter of gun foundations.

A careful inspection of the vessel will be made and if it is found that the boilers are a failure the department will recommend that they be replaced.

### Bank Robbers Foiled.

WAMPUM, Pa., April 18.—In a battle following an unsuccessful attempt to rob the First National bank of this place early today, one man was killed and another seriously wounded.

The dead man was one of the burglars and he has not yet been identified. The wounded man is Henry Willoughby, a baker, who surprised the burglars while at work. His injuries are serious.

Willoughby was passing the bank at an early hour on his way to work when he was suddenly confronted by a man who, at the point of a revolver, ordered him to throw up his hands and be quiet. He did so, but in his right hand was a revolver and a moment later both men fired at each other.

At the report of the revolvers two other men rushed from the bank and took a hand in the shooting. The fight brought some of the people in the vicinity of the bank and they were soon at the scene of trouble, but before their arrival, the burglars had fled.

While the men had broken into the banking rooms they had not completed the drilling of the safe and their attempt at robbery was unsuccessful.

This morning the body of one of the burglars was discovered in a vacant lot in the upper end of town. As the bullet wound was near his heart, it is presumed that his companions had to drag or drive their dying comrade from the bank to where he was found. While he was shabbily dressed, on his body was found a gold watch and \$44 in cash.

Willoughby was shot in both legs. It is supposed he fired the shot that killed the burglar. Great excitement prevails in the town and a posse has been organized to pursue the burglars.

### Burned By Gasoline.

BUTTE, April 17.—Janet McKay, a prominent young society lady of this city, and former secretary of the Associated Charities board, was so seriously burned Tuesday evening at her home that her life is despaired of. The accident occurred through gasoline, with which the young lady was cleaning a pair of gloves.

After cleaning the gloves she threw the remainder of the gasoline into the stove, in which she supposed there was no fire. An explosion followed immediately and her clothing caught fire. Her mother came rushing in and, seeing her daughter's condition attempted to put out the flames, fainting while doing so, and but for the young lady herself both would have burned to death. A first it was thought that the young lady's burns were not serious, but it now develops that she will most certainly lose both arms if she lives.

### D. G. Lockwood Warrants Every Bottle.

If troubled with rheumatism give Chamberlain's Pain Balm a trial. It will not cost you a cent if it does no good. One application will relieve the pain. It also cures sprains and bruises in one-third the time required by any other treatment. Cuts, burns, frostbites, quinsy, pains in the side and chest, glandular and other swellings are quickly cured by applying it. Every bottle warranted. Price 25 and 50 cents.

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