THE UNITED STATES RAM KATAHDIN, WHICH IS SOON TO BE USED AS A TARGET AT THE INDIAN HEAD PROVING GROUNDS.

TO TEST 14-INCH GUNS.

Army-Navy Reality in Matter—Ram To Be Shot to Pieces.

Between the army and the navy in times of peace, which has become traditional, there is no incentive from a race between the men of those departments in the manufacturing and testing of new 14-inch guns, which seem destined to continue existing heavy armament.

Already the War Department has five 14-inch guns under construction, two of which have been rushed to completion. The officers of the Sandy Hook proving ground are now preparing to receive a report from Washington to the effect that the initial trial may not occur before the first of the year.

In addition to these five guns, four others of like pattern have been authorized by Congress anew for the army.

Surrounded with every precaution for secrecy, the naval gun factory at Washington and the Midwest Steel Company, contractors, have been preparing a whole 14-inch gun for the navy, and despite the progress of the five army guns, the naval authorities are in hopes that their test, scheduled to take place at the Indian Head proving ground, will precede the army test at Sandy Hook.

The 14-inch type of gun measures 234 feet in length and weighs more than 61 tons, being heavier by ten tons than the 12-inch guns of the new battleships North Dakota and Wisconsin, and six tons heavier than those of the Arizona and the Wyoming. It is designed to send a 1,000-pound projectile at a speed of 2,600 feet a second, and will have an extreme range of 25 miles. Its effective range in battle will measure more than five miles.

The cost of this "super-Dreadnought" is $200,000. Those of this type allotted to the navy will be placed aboard battleships of a different design, and will be an outgrowth of the Board of Naval Construction, each calling for a man under construction, two of which have been rushed to completion.

The most expert and careful mechanical labor has been expended in the construction of the gun. The bore of the tube, surface finishing, jacketing, heading, battle, water and kindred operations have been directed by most approved plants. It is interesting to know that the prepared metal of the bore is heaped in boxes, here before leaving the factory, and that if there is a variation of more than a quarter of an inch in the bore the gun will fail to meet requirements. The fifty-two rifling grooves increase in width as they approach the muzzle so as to impart the usual rotary motion to the projectile. This will prevent the muzzle from turning lengthwise in flight. The capacity of the chamber in the muzzle is such that they are capable of accommodating 255 pounds of smokeless powder.

The destructive powers of the new rifle are such that no modern armament, it is estimated, can survive the impact of the projectile.

The Indian Head proving ground, where the 14-inch gun test for the navy is to be made, is familiar to the public; which can serve as a lasting target. Ched in a new coat of steel, if it fails for the sacrifice, she will be shot to pieces. The experiment will be conducted accurately, according to custom, and will be witnessed by the ordnance experts of the navy, with Rear Admiral Mason, chief ordnance, in charge.

Orders have been received at the Lackawanna and Brooklyn yards to start the fund of the work. There will be divided of his armament, including the machinery and useful material, and towed to Hamilton, to the ordnance department.

The opportunity never came for the Kaimahim to purchase strategical steel, for foreign armament has removed ships of this type from the sphere of serviceability. In the case of the battleships of this class the 18-inch shell is started on the pitting out-of-date war vessels for ordnance tests, and the Kaimahim will be aloft in the Washington and New York want a second, and the torpedo boats Northwestern and Alvin, as well as a large number of destroyers, for the same purpose, for the same purpose.

In the course of the run being only six inches thick, she will be strengthened by the heart of modern plates, and, in the case of the Mortons, alone, will have the projectiles sent from the proving ground.

DOING THE LATHE WORK ON A 14-INCH GUN FOR THE AMERICAN NAVY.

SUPER-DREADNOUGHTS.

Coastlines of Naval Competition—Germany and England.

London, September 25.

Shortlived as the modern novel is the costly warship. The Dreadnought and the battleship, condemned the battleships and armored cruisers of the British navy and all fleet demands the scrap heap, but how short may be their own day? The Americans and Germans began with imitating them, and swiftly improved upon them. British destroyers did not stand still, but raised their calculations and planned superior war vessels of each type, and these were launched more rapidly than competing ships in two rival navies. The types were not altered, and it is now expected the British Admiralty has virtually air-launched marking time while the Germans have been forging ahead. Englishmen do not take pride of American naval progress except in micromancing and micromancing components based upon the two-nation standard. They do not believe that there will ever be a naval war between England and America, but keep upon the two fleets as natural allies in the work of civilization. The German campaign for the challenging the ascendency of British sea power is more serious. Every step of it is matched with jealousy, and rivalry, and righteously so, because German experts are making a deliberate attempt to outsize the British navy in every type and class of fighting ship. If they are successful, the least war warship in the most powerful fleet will have to be "scrapped" in the course of a few years. British design itself has become as equally destructive to new types. The first super-Dreadnought, as the well-known expert, Mr. H. W. Wilson, describes an essentially new type of battleship, has been launched hosting at Hanse, bringing, it is not a Kaimahim, which, while larger than the original Dreadnought and provided with thicker armor and a better balanced and more serviceable battery, is a variant of the primary type. Germany will have four of these Novaus or Westfalen in commission before many months have passed, and to build them as rapidly as superior work has been done in England will have been proved. The Stettorb, which is now in the water and is to be followed by the Goeben before the end of the year and by four other galleons next year, is almost as mysterious as the Flying Dutchman, so carefully has the work been done in the shipyards and so slowly have the measurements and details of construction and armament been kept out of print. The German experts have made a profound study of the problem while improving on their first Novaus, and hence succeeded, if it is reported, on producing a design as superior in all respects to the latest British battleship as to justify the name "Super-Dreadnought." While official formation is still withheld, the Stettorb is evidently a battleship with displacement of the order of 22,000 tons and a speed exceeding...