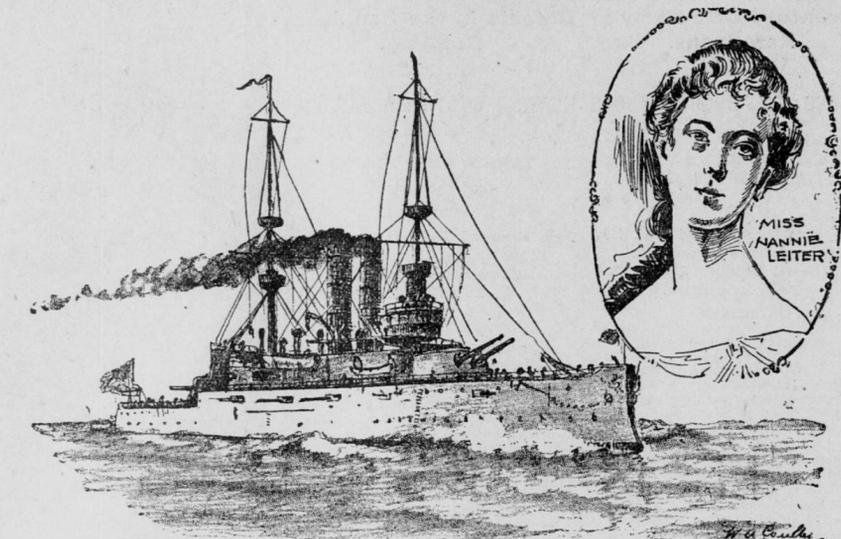


# BATTLESHIP ILLINOIS LAUNCHED AT THE NEWPORT NEWS YARD

**NEWPORT NEWS, Va., Oct. 4.**—Newport News was thronged with visitors to-day from far and near, who came to witness the launching of the battleship Illinois. Chicago was represented by delegations of prominent men and women, while the near-by cities and villages practically emptied themselves of their population in order to assist the State of Illinois in honoring the baptism of the great ship, which is to bear the name of the Prairie State.

A conservative estimate placed the crowd of visitors at fully 20,000, and it is believed that fully 30,000 persons witnessed the ceremonies attendant upon the launching. The weather was ideal.

Among the prominent persons from the national capital was Assistant Secretary of the Navy Allen, who came here from Portsmouth, where he has been inspecting the navy-yard.



UNCLE SAM'S MOST POWERFUL FIGHTING MACHINE AND THE LADY WHO CHRISTENED HER ILLINOIS.

## Vast Throng Sees the Christening of the American Navy's Most Powerful Fighting Machine.

Governor Tanner of Illinois, with his party, arrived at Old Point at 10 o'clock last night. The preliminaries for the launching began at 10 o'clock to-day, and at 10:30 the christening party passed through the immense throng gathered around the red hull of the Illinois.

Miss Nancy Leiter, sponsor for the Illinois, accompanied by a distinguished party from Chicago, ascended the christening stand. There was considerable delay in perfecting all the preliminary arrangements, but the inauguration proceeded patiently until the only remaining obstacle was the single plank which held the vessel in position.

A hush fell over the crowd as the sharp saw cut its way through the timber. When the supreme moment came Miss Leiter poised herself on the gaily decorated stand with the bottle of champagne in her hand, and as the big ship moved slowly toward the river cast it against the receding bow. The

bottle crashed into a thousand fragments and the wine streamed down the side of the nation's new defender. As the great vessel moved down the ways cheer after cheer went up from the multitude of spectators, whose enthusiastic shouts almost drowned the noisy welcome to the newcomer sound-

ed by the whistles in the harbor. At 12:32 p. m. the Illinois struck the water with a resounding splash and floated majestically out into the stream. There she was soon "picked up" by the tugs which were in waiting and towed to a pier, where she will secure her boilers, engines and other machinery.

Immediately after the launching several hundred guests of the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company boarded the steamer Newport News for Old Point, where they were entertained at a luncheon and banquet at the Chamberlain Hotel. Toasts

were responded to by Governor Tanner of Illinois, Governor Tyler of Virginia and other prominent guests. A launching hop was given at the Chamberlain Hotel this evening.

The Illinois will be the biggest and most powerful and probably the most effective battleship in the United States navy. Larger than the Iowa and heavier than the Oregon, the Illinois is still so designed that she will be able to enter any harbor open to the smaller battleships, while, in the matter of speed, she will rank with any of them. The most striking difference between the Illinois and the battleships now in service is the high freeboard of the former, enabling her to fight her guns from their great elevation above the water in seas so heavy that the guns of the lower vessel would be submerged and useless. Splendid sea-going powers are also expected to result from this increased freeboard, by which is meant the height of the hull above the water line.

The dimensions of the Illinois are as follows: Length on load water line, 388 feet; beam, extreme, 77 feet 2 1/2 inches; draft on normal displacement of 111,525 tons, 23 feet 6 inches; maximum displacement, all ammunition and stores on board, 12,325 tons; maximum indicated horsepower (estimated), 10,000; probable speed, 16 1/2 knots; normal coal supply 800 tons; coal supply, loose storage, 1200 tons; full bunker capacity, 1400 to 1500 tons.

Complement of officers, 40; seamen, marines, etc., 449.

The main battery will consist of four 13-inch breech-loading rifles in Hichborn balanced turrets oval in shape, and placed in the center line of the vessel, and fourteen 6-inch rapid fire guns. The secondary battery will consist of sixteen 6-pounder rapid fire guns, four 1-pounder rapid fire guns, four Colt guns and two field guns. She will carry four torpedo tubes.

There will be two sets of triple expansion, twin-screw engines, each in its own separate water-tight compartment. The collective indicated horsepower will be about 10,000, with 120 revolutions per minute, stroke four feet.

The first keel plate of the vessel was laid February 10, 1897, not quite twenty months ago, and the percentage of work completed to this date, based upon the vessel fitted out and ready for sea, is now reported as between 53 and 54 per cent. The contract price was \$2,595,000, and the date of completion is stated to be October 5, 1899.

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**NATIONAL ISSUES ARE PARAMOUNT**

Thus Declares Colonel Roosevelt.

**ACCEPTS THE NOMINATION**

**PLEDGES SUPPORT TO SARATOGA PLATFORM.**

Believes the American Army and Navy Should be Strengthened to Meet All Demands Upon it.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

**NEW YORK, Oct. 4.**—The committee appointed to notify the candidates nominated by the State Republican Convention at Saratoga went to the home of Colonel Roosevelt, the nominee for Governor, at Oyster Bay, L. I., to-day. Senator Platt was unable to attend through illness. Dr. Chauncey M. Depew made the notification address to Colonel Roosevelt, complimenting him on the unanimity of his choice by the convention. Colonel Roosevelt replied as follows:

I herewith accept the nomination tendered by the Republican party in convention assembled. I deeply feel the responsibilities which attach to the chief executive of a commonwealth larger and more populous than many an Old World kingdom. In accepting this nomination at the hands of the authorized committee of the Republican party, I take this opportunity of extending through you to the Republicans of the Empire State my thanks for the confidence and honor conferred upon me. If elected I shall strive to administer the duties of the office with the same conscientiousness and integrity which I have shown in the past. I take it that the promises made in the platform adopted at Saratoga are as binding as any others, and to the fulfillment of the pledges made therein I promise my best efforts. The party's past has been glorious, and while this does not atone for failure to perform our present duty, it does give adequate reason for believing we shall meet each duty right, so that the Republic of the future may give a cause for thankfulness and pride as do the achievements of the past.

National issues are paramount this year. It is not more possible to conduct a State election now without regard to national issues than it was possible to conduct one in 1861 or 1862. As it then was, so it now is the interest of the nation as a whole that we give an absorbing interest to every citizen. Then, as now, the Republican party was forced to elect a Republican President, in 1861. Then, as now, it was forced to make precedents. In 1861 we had to preserve the Republic for its great destiny. In 1888 we have to take a long stride toward the accomplishment of that destiny. The Republican party, in its platform, has promised to restore prosperity to our country, and to put the nation where it is possible to put it, in a prosperous future which is now before a united nation.

The issues for honest money, for protection of American industry, for the upbuilding of a merchant marine adequate to carry the commerce of the world, and for a naval militia in times of war, are as vital this year as they were in the great contest which was so successfully fought in 1888. We must further work on our navy and build up our army, so that they may be equal to meet every demand made upon them as we give our destiny. Hawaii and Porto Rico are ours and in the East and West Indies the interests of the nation shall be safeguarded.

Not is it alone on national issues that the Republican party has its duty to perform. Its record made by the Republican administration of the State of New York is a guarantee of its ability to administer the property rights and interests and liberty of all citizens the Republican party can be safely trusted. As we pledge ourselves to uphold the national honor abroad, we pledge ourselves to enforce strict honesty at home.

The National Guard must be raised to the highest standard of efficiency. It has amply proved its courage and patriotism and we are bound to see that soldiers so brave and so willing are properly armed and are handled on the best possible system.

I heartily concur in the doctrines enunciated at Saratoga, and if elected, I shall earnestly strive to discharge the duties of the chief executive at the time of the end of my term the people shall find that their interests have been safe in my hands.

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Under the auspices of the Scandinavian Republican Club.

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**REGULAR DEMOCRATIC AND NON-PARTISAN NOMINEE.**

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United States Branch.

## MADRID MIST FIRST GIVE-UP THE PHILIPPINES Then Peace Will Be Effected Easily.

### EASTERN QUESTION DOMINANT

### FRESH INSTRUCTIONS SENT TO THE COMMISSIONERS.

### General Merritt's Opinion That All the Islands Should Be Retained Causes Consternation in Spain.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

**NEW YORK, Oct. 4.**—The Washington correspondent of the Herald telegraphs: As the result of a consultation at the White House this afternoon between the President, Secretary Hay and Secretary Long, fresh instructions regarding the Philippines have been wired to the American Commissioners in Paris. They do not materially alter those given to the delegates before their departure for France, but are on a new point brought up since the consultation of Major General Merritt with the American representatives. A cipher dispatch was received by Secretary Hay during the afternoon regarding the matter and he considered the question so important that he went to the White House and laid it before the President. Mr. McKinley sent for Secretary Long and shortly afterward Secretary Long called on the President. These officials were closeted together for more than an hour. All of the officials who participated in the conference are reticent, but it was admitted that the consultation was held to discuss the dispatch from Chairman Day regarding the Philippines.

It is ascertained that the programme which the commission is following requires the disposition of questions affecting the archipelago before any other questions are considered. The President has been informed of General Merritt's views in favor of the retention of all the islands, but so far as I have been able to learn the fresh instructions do not affect the demand for the island of Luzon and reversionary rights over the remainder of the group. They relate, I was told, more to the matter of detail and are intended to clarify the American Commissioners' work with material to answer the Spanish Commissioners in case they should raise a point in reply to the formal demand presented by Mr. Day yesterday. The reply is expected to be made at the adjournment of the commission for such time as is regarded by Mr. Day and the administration as indicating that the commission's work will soon be completed. It is recognized that the Philippines will be the bone of contention and that once they are out of the way, it will be pretty plain sailing in the matter of arranging for the cession of Guam, Cuba, Porto Rico and the remaining Spanish West Indies to the United States.

Mr. Day is empowered, however, to interrupt the commission's work at any time in case he should find that Spain is either unwilling to grant the demands of this Government or disposed unnecessarily to delay the commission's work and a naval demonstration will follow which, the authorities are satisfied, will bring the Madrid Government to its senses.

**PARIS, Oct. 4.**—The American Peace Commissioners determined to devote to-day's session to a conference with Major General Merritt. The session of the American commission began at 10 o'clock and lasted until 1 o'clock in the afternoon.

General Merritt detailed to the com-

## LAWS TO GOVERN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

### Report Drafted by the Commission.

### BILL TO BE RECOMMENDED

### WILL HAVE A FULL-FLEDGED CONGRESSMAN.

### Coolidge Question to Be Met With Iron-Clad Rules in Conformity With the Chinese Restriction Act.

Correspondence of the Associated Press.

**HONOLULU, Sept. 24.**—The commission having finished its sittings in Hawaii and left for home it will now be in order to state what has been accomplished. At the outset it may be said that the work is complete, all but the finishing touches on the main report and one bill, in which President McKinley's wishes have to be consulted.

While it is to be called the Territory of Hawaii, the Government will be an enlarged territorial one, something half way between a Territory and a State. Government by a commission or on the lines of the District of Columbia has never been seriously considered. Some matters Hawaii will be confined to the privileges of a Territory, while in others it will have those of a State.

The Territory of Hawaii will have a Legislature and will make its own laws, subject to approval or rejection by Congress. There will be no change from the present form of the Legislature, and its numerical strength and apportionment of districts, etc., remain untouched.

The new Territory of Hawaii will have one representative in Congress at present, but he will be a full fledged one, not an ordinary Delegate with no vote, who can only be heard on questions concerning his own Territory. The Congressman from Hawaii will have the same rights as one from Ohio, a concession made to the growing importance of Hawaii from a geographical, naval and military standpoint.

The property qualification of \$1500 in real or \$3000 in personal estate to make an elector eligible to vote for the Senate is done away with. To vote for a Senator in the Territory of Hawaii an elector must possess an annual income from some source of \$600. In every-thing else the franchise is free and unrestricted by any qualification, educational or otherwise.

The indorsement of the Washington members of the commission has been eagerly sought by friends of McKinley's sympathies are with Minister Hitt, while those of Congressman Hitt are for President Dole.

It has been decided that the Governorship of Hawaii is to be a much more important office than that of other Territories, consequently the salary will be commensurate with the office. It will be either \$6000 a year, or \$5000, with an extra thousand for expenses, practically the same thing. The salary and status of the office having been raised above the usual run of Territorial Governorships, there will be no other candidates than those mentioned above, particularly in view of the possibility of a United States Senatorship to be evolved in the future. It is for this reason the Star learns that one

## CUBAN BOARDS IN JOINT CONFERENCE

### First Session Held at Havana.

### DISAGREEMENT IS PROBABLE

### SPANIARDS WILL WORK TO OBTAIN DELAY.

Special Cable to The Call and the New York Herald. Copyright, 1898, by James Gordon Bennett.

**HAVANA, Cuba, Oct. 4.**—There was a joint session of the commissions this morning, as arranged by General Clous, Captain Hart, Colonel Grant and Major Benitez. Even the Commissioners themselves were in the dark before the meeting as to the method of procedure and the extent of the programme.

One thing was considered certain; that the date of evacuation would be the first matter discussed. Other topics which it was expected would be taken up were the order in which the Spanish troops should move, the opening of ports to admit relief supplies, the clearing of the districts of Spanish soldiers, the abrogating or modifying of the orders of concentration so that the Cubans can go to work and defining the property to be relinquished and to be taken to Spain by the Spanish troops.

The session has every prospect of being a lengthy one, progress being slow on account of the necessity of employing interpreters. The probability is that each side will want separate conferences on various points brought up.

The Americans intend to insist on prompt action, while the Spaniards will urge the great difficulties in the way of a movement earlier than on the dates they named. A disagreement will probably result and the Spaniards may appeal to Madrid, similar action being taken by Americans, who will appeal to Washington.

## TRANSPORT OBDAM'S BUNKERS ON FIRE

### SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Oct. 4.

### The United States transport Obdam, which left here on Sunday, has returned with her bunkers on fire.

### The presence of fire was discovered yesterday morning on 10 o'clock in the main hold, which was at once flooded with tons of water and a gang of men was put at work removing the ammunition, of which the ship carried a large supply. All the officers and soldiers who were well enough to do so worked hard to extinguish the flames. Every means available is now being employed to extinguish the fire, and it is hoped she will be able to leave here again in three days.

### Surgeon Major Seaman reports all well on board.

## DIED.

**COFFIN**—In Oakland, October 3, 1898, Charles Coffin, beloved husband of Annie E. H. Coffin, and father of Gertrude R. Coffin, a native of Pennsylvania, aged 34 years 1 month and 1 day.

The funeral will take place to-morrow (Thursday) at 10 o'clock, from Salvation Hall, Twelfth and Washington streets, Oakland.

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