

IMPROVE MONITORS.

Changes to Be Made in Construction of Four New Defenders.

Naval Board of Construction Lets Contracts for Them, and Then Decides to Make Them More Effective.

Secretary Long has sent a letter to each of the four firms that secured contracts to build the single turret monitors, asking them to estimate the increased cost of improved vessels on modified lines just adopted by the board of construction at its session. In the meantime, under directions from the department, work will not be begun on the Arkansas, the Connecticut, the Florida and the Wyoming until the new estimates are received and considered by the authorities.

The modified plan adopted by the board on construction calls for vessels of 4,000 tons instead of 2,700 tons, with a coal capacity of 400 tons instead of 200 tons, giving a range of action exceeding 4,000 knots at ten-knot speed, which equals that of the seagoing battleship Iowa. Two turrets, with twin ten-inch guns, replace the single 12-inch turrets. The original speed of 12 knots is retained, compelling engines and boilers of 3,200 horse-power instead of 2,400. The hull has been materially lengthened and broadened, and the draught has been increased from 12 feet 6 inches to 14 feet 6 inches. In the new design the protective deck is 2½ inches thick instead of 1½ inches, and the interior bracing of the vessel is made slightly heavier and stronger.

The estimated cost of the armor for the original design was \$130,000. It is calculated that this will be increased to \$187,000 for the larger vessel, and this fact, together with the other added weights which were deemed essential to the improved monitors, may compel the department to ask congress to remove the unprecedented restriction which was made in the appropriation for these vessels. Up to this time the appropriation bill for all warships have provided a limit for the hull, engines and boilers, exclusive of armor and armament, but the act of May 4, 1868, provided for four harbor-defense vessels and stipulated that they should "cost, exclusive of armament, not exceeding \$1,250,000 each," although in the same act provision was made for battleships "to cost, exclusive of armor and armament, not exceeding \$3,000,000." It is believed that the exception in the case of the monitors was due to a clerical error, but in any event it occurs in the law and cannot be evaded.

The contractors for the four monitors, with the amount of their bids, are as follows: The Arkansas, Newport News company, \$860,000; the Connecticut, Bath iron works, \$862,000; the Florida, Lewis Nixon, \$825,000; the Wyoming, Union iron works, \$875,000.

DECLARE WAR ON FOOTBALL.

Prospect Park (Brooklyn) Police Would Stop All Amateur Games.

A movement is on foot to stop the amateur games of football on the parade ground of Prospect park, Brooklyn, and it has the sympathy and support of Police Captain McNamara of the Prospect Park precinct.

Several games were played on the parade ground the other afternoon and the police guard had to be reinforced considerably over that of previous days. Almost every day on which a game has been played some one of the contestants has been carried off the grounds injured and an ambulance call has been the regular order of things.

"I am thoroughly in sympathy with the movement to stop this rough play," said Police Captain McNamara, "and I hope it will be successful. When a boy goes into the game he takes his life in his hands. Our records show it. The police blotter for one day at 448 Washington avenue, received a fracture of the leg while playing football on parade ground; attended by Ambulance Surgeon Smith, of the Seney hospital."

WANT OUR CORN.

Heavy and Continued Demand for the American Cereal in South Africa.

A heavy and continued demand exists for corn, and also for American corn meal in South Africa, according to United States Consul General Stowe, at Cape Town, who has made a special report to the state department on the subject of American trade in that section of the world. The corn is quoted at \$3.52 per hundred pounds in Cape Town, and \$4.44 in Johannesburg, and the supplies do not satisfy the demand. The corn meal is quoted at \$4.12 per 100 pounds, and large importations have recently arrived from America and Montevideo.

Mr. Stowe says there is also an enormous demand for sago, a new article of imported food stuff, which is winning the market, even to the detriment of corn. Owing to the fall in wheat flour has been reduced 12 cents per hundred pounds. Australian and California wheat is offered at \$4.44 to \$5.10 per hundred pounds and every steamer from America brings large quantities.

Ancient Americans.
Prof. Proctor asserts that 100,000,000 people lived and died in America before Columbus' discovery.

Women Factory Employees in Russia.
Among the 780,000 people employed in Russia's factories about 200,000 are women.

SECRET OUT WITH THE WINE.

Society Girl's Heroism Saves Her Host from Discomfiture—An Amusing Denouement.

If Miss Eleanor Sedley, one of the best-known society girls of New York, could have pulled champagne cork with a corkscrew, only three persons would ever have known that she played the role of colored waitress at a stag dinner to save D. Ogden Fowler from discomfiture.

Miss Sedley was the guest of the Fowlers in their Staten Island home, and Mr. Fowler was giving a "little dinner" to a few of his friends. All minor details had been arranged, but on the day of the dinner the chef and waitress ordered from the caterer's did not arrive, and none others could be secured.

Two guests had already arrived, and Mrs. Fowler was at her wits' end.

"Never mind," said Miss Sedley, "you cook the dinner and I'll wait on the table."

The guests arrived and seated themselves at the table. No one suspected that "Mary," the beautiful "colored" girl, who so admirably administered to their wants, was the society girl they so well knew. "Mary" acquired herself until it came time for the wine. This adjunct to a good dinner was delayed so long the guests wondered. After trying in vain to pull the corks with a corkscrew "Mary" was obliged to turn to the guests and ask: "Won't one of you please help me?"

Miss Sedley was recognized, matters explained, a hearty laugh indulged in, and the dinner wound up with "Mary" as the guest of honor.

ACTRESS AND BARON'S WIFE

Madeline Bouton's Romantic Wedding a Year Ago Just Comes to Light.

Madeline Bouton, the dashing young actress, who came to San Francisco a few months ago as leading lady of the Frawley dramatic company, is married; in fact, has been married for over a year to Baron Mimpisch, a German nobleman.

The actress and the baron were married by a minister or justice of the peace in New York, and the fact has been kept from the public on account of the baron's plea for time to reconcile his aristocratic parents to the step he has taken.

Three weeks ago Madeline Bouton left San Francisco for the east, and it was given out that she had gone to wed Baron Mimpisch. However, it became known to a few outside Miss Bouton's intimates at San Francisco that her real purpose in going to New York was to demand of her husband that he acknowledge her position before the world.

Miss Bouton has become tired of assuming the dual role, and is determined that Baron Mimpisch shall recognize her publicly as his wife, and that very soon.

Not long ago the baron left for Germany, and Miss Bouton's friends say his trip is for the purpose of confessing his marriage to his parents, and asking their blessing of the union. He will take his Madeline home as soon as matters are amicably adjusted with the old folks.

WESTERN END OF CANAL.

Survey and Map Made of the Pacific Entrance to the Nicaragua Inter-oceanic Waterway.

The survey of the west entrance of the proposed Nicaragua canal has been finished and the map with soundings, plotted and the contours put in. This survey was made with great care and shows a peculiar formation of the bottom of the Pacific in the vicinity. The rocky position near Brito Head shelves suddenly into deep water, making a harbor to the eastward feasible. As the canal will come out within a mile or two of the head, a breakwater to the eastward will form an inclosure into which vessels can round to before entering the harbor proper. The harbor will be dredged on the side of the wide mangrove swamps east of the Rio Grande and will run back from the shore line about 3,000 feet. A breakwater on the eastern edge of the 600-foot channel will protect the entrance from the tidal swell that sets heavily from the southeast in even the calmest weather.

The survey of the eastern entrance at Graytown has been plotted and the map finished. The soundings run out from one-half to one and a half miles from low water and show the eight-fathom contour. This is sufficient for the eastern entrance and estimates can readily and quickly be made for any of the proposed projects for deepening and improving the harbor at this spot.

PLEA FOR FARMER'S WIFE.

Rest Rooms Suggested for Them When They Are in Town Shopping.

At the convention of the Federation of Missouri Women's Clubs recently at Springfield, the secretary read a letter from Mrs. Scammon making a plea for the farmer's wife who drives to town with her husband, finishes her shopping before her husband is ready to drive her home, and who, in the meantime, has no place but the street where she can spend the time.

Mrs. Scammon suggested that the clubs fit up a "rest room" for these women, supply it with furniture and books, and in this way make a comfortable place wherein the farmer's wife can rest and be entertained instead of being compelled to walk the street, bundle or baby in arms, or sit down on stone steps or curbing.

Russia's Great Naval Outlay.

Russia has spent over \$25,000,000 in naval armaments during the last seven years.

L'ABEILLE DE LA NILE-ORLEANS

Estrès répandue en Louisiane et dans tous les Etats du Sud. Sa publicité offre donc au commerce des avantages exceptionnels. Prix de l'abonnement pour l'année Edition quotidienne, \$12 00; Edition hebdomadaire \$3 00; Edition du Dimanche, \$2 00.

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INDIANS ARE RICH.

Members of the Osage Tribe Occupy Soft Berths.

Are Aristocrats and Scorn Manual Labor—Creek Indians Are Spoiled by Too Much Visiting.

Maritime Monetaire.

Montaine.

Montaine.