

Navy Building Is Yet an Experiment.

Millions of Dollars Have to Be Spent Largely on Faith—Some Interesting Comparisons.

I. N. Ford, in New York Tribune. Sea power is a problem with factors of unknown value. Naval construction during the last thirty years has been essentially experimental. There have been no sea fights by which the utility of the costly mechanism of naval warfare could be tested decisively.

Of naval controversy, and until it is ascertained as maritime nations can afford to have this branch of the service developed. England neglected it until warned of her inferiority by the activities of the German government in supplying torpedo equipment, and even now she is the weakest point in the British navy, as is shown by the comparative exhibit of naval resources in Mr. Laird Clowes's admirable manual.

Each of the great maritime powers builds its own fleet of war vessels, and does not call upon rivals for assistance. Russia does not construct warships for foreign nations, but Germany, France and Italy are now doing considerable work for foreign governments, especially in South America and the far East.

FOREIGN WORK. The Japanese government has been building a large number of war vessels of every class—battleships, cruisers, gunboats and torpedo craft. Whenever a naval war comes on some of these engines of sea power will be proved to be misadventured failures, and others will be shown to have superior efficiency.

JAPAN TO THE FRONT. The Japanese government in creating a new and powerful navy is adopting the same course. It is now building at home and abroad sixty-five large vessels of various classes and 230 torpedo craft of various designs.

OTHER BIG CRAFT. In addition to these three battleships, another has been building at Elswick by the Armstrongs as a sister ship to the Fuji, recently completed. This is the Yashima, with a displacement of 12,500 tons and a speed of 18 knots.

TORPEDO BOATS. The value of the torpedo-boat in actual warfare is one of the vital points of the modern navy.

ble weapon, but only an expert and thoroughly disciplined force can use it against an alert and vigilant enemy. A single battleship, with its rifled muzzles and its armor, has the destructive energy of an entire fleet in the days of Nelson and Rodney.

CASUALTIES TO VESSELS. A Sloop of War, Carried Inland by a Tidal Wave, Ends Her Days as a Hotel.

From the Army and Navy Journal. In answer to an inquiry, we give a list of the vessels of the United States Navy which have been lost by casualties other than those of war. We believe that the list is substantially complete.

AN ACCIDENT BROUGHT FAME. The Way the Making of Shot Was Discovered. All dreams do not go by contraries. If they did Plumber Watts, of Bristol, England, in all probability, would have remained a humble plumber to the end of his days.

EVOLUTION IN NAVAL PROGRESS. The principle of the survival of the fittest is not only applied to naval armament, although there has been no decisive battle on the high seas for the benefit of marine designers and architects.

October 8, 1864; Black Hawk destroyed by fire on April 22, 1865; Bloomer sunk, 1865; Chattanooga sunk by ice at League Island, 1872; Columbia, iron clad, wrecked off North Carolina, 1863; Commodore Maedonough founded August 23, 1865; Crocus wrecked August, 1863; Edith, lost; Lavender wrecked June 12, 1865; Lily sunk by collision May 3, 1865; Maria wrecked by collision; Madge sunk off Frying Pan Shoals, October 11, 1863; Pink lost September, 1865; Rattler wrecked and abandoned December 30, 1864.

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At 72c yd 1500 yards of Colored XX Satin Duchesse, pure silk and in a splendid variety of the most exclusive Spring colors. Positively worth \$1.00 a yard.
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- At 39c yd 540 yards of Black Japanese Habutai, Lyons dye, fully 29 inches wide, and positively worth 60c per yard.
At 58c yd 1,500 yards of Black Brocaded Gros Grain, strictly pure silk of superior quality, full 24 inches wide—the new satin figure patterns. Positively worth \$1.
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At 79c yd 700 yards of Black Satin Duchesse, of a superior quality, rich and glossy. An ideal material for dress waist or skirt. Positively worth \$1.25 a yard.

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At 43c yd 25 pieces of 46-inch Crepons, in new and effective patterns. Goods that are positively worth 75c yard.
At 59c yd Very fine English Mohair Brilliantine; beautiful quality, bright and lustrous, also extra heavy, strictly all wool Henrietta cloth. Both of these positively worth \$1.00 a yard.
At 1.09 yd Pure Mohair and Wool Crepons in a complete assortment of stylish and exclusive designs. Positively worth \$1.50 yard.

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