

50,000 TO WITNESS ARIZONA LAUNCHING

Mate to World's Biggest Battleship to Enter the Water Next Saturday.

GALA DAY IN BROOKLYN YARD

Date Set to Get the Month's Highest Tide—Name Borne by Three Fighting Ships.

The superdreadnought Arizona, which, when she goes into commission about a year hence, will share with her sister ship, the Pennsylvania, the honor of being the world's biggest commissioned battleship, will be launched at the Navy Yard, in Brooklyn, at 1 o'clock next Saturday afternoon. Arrangements have been made for 50,000 people to see the great ship plunge into the water, while the massed bands of six superdreadnoughts and dreadnoughts, which will be in the Navy Yard at the time, roll out the national anthem.

The launching has been set for 1 o'clock, because at that hour the spring tide, which comes only twice a month, will be highest and the Arizona will need every drop of water she can get when Naval Constructor John E. Bailey gives the order to "saw off."

The yard will be decorated and all ships will be "full dressed."

When the Arizona shoots down the greased ways she will be between 65 and 66 per cent. completed. Her launching weight will be about 13,000 tons. The engines, turrets, boat cranes, masts and many smaller structures, machines and fittings have been in process of construction in the Navy Yard shops for months and the installation of them will begin a few days after the launching.

The launching is a vital and anxious moment in the building of a ship. Taking in the sliding ways, cradle, and the timbers which move with the ship, the total moving weight of the Arizona will be about 13,500 tons. When it is considered that the speed of the ship as she enters the water will be about twenty-two feet per second, or fifteen miles an hour, the tremendous momentum may be realized and the disastrous results that would follow errors in calculations imagined.

From the time the blocks are removed until launching takes place, the ship is prevented from sliding by hydraulic triggers which engage the sliding ways near the middle of their length. The triggers are held in place by hydraulic piston rams contained in cylinders in which the pressures are estimated to vary from 1,700 to 2,900 pounds per square inch. These cylinders are controlled by a hand operated valve. The Construction Officer will personally take charge of this valve in order that it may not be released prematurely. To release it before all men and obstructions were clear might bring destruction to ship and workers alike. Until recently the method employed to free a ship when ready to launch was to saw off the upper ends of the sliding ways just aft of a point at which they were securely bolted to the fixed ways. The new method is perhaps less spectacular, but quicker and more effective.

The new Arizona is the third American war vessel to bear the name of the youngest of the States. The first Arizona was an iron side wheel steamer, launched in 1859. In the civil war she was commanded by Captain Daniel P. Upton and was a part of the West Gulf Blockading Squadron under Farragut in 1863. She participated in the attacks on Fort Beauregard, La., and in the expedition to Sabine Pass, Texas, where she ran aground, but later escaped, although several other ships in the squadron were disabled and compelled to surrender. In the same year she was practically put out of commission due to loss of men from yellow fever. In the following year, 1864, the Arizona was again in the Gulf blockading force and did creditable service under Captain Howard Tibbits. Feb. 27, 1865, the first Arizona caught fire and was destroyed.

The second Arizona was launched at the Philadelphia Navy Yard in 1865, and named the Neshaming. Her name was changed to Arizona on May 15, 1869.

Her name was again changed on Aug. 10, 1869, this time to the Nevada. She was placed out of commission at New York in 1869 and condemned by the Goldsborough Board as "a lamentable and glaring instance of waste of efforts, and a downright squandering of means."

The new Arizona will be the fourth battleship and the third of the dreadnought type to be launched at the Navy Yard in Brooklyn. The first was the Connecticut, flagship of "Bob" Evans, Thomas and Sperry, on the voyage around the world. The second was the dreadnought Florida, which was Admiral Fletcher's flagship during fighting at Vera Cruz last year. The third was the new superdreadnought New York, flagship of Vice Admiral Mayo, commanding the First Division of the Atlantic Fleet.

The Arizona will have a displacement when commissioned of 31,400 tons, or about 4,500 tons more than the present New York. She will have a main battery of twelve 14-inch guns mounted three to a turret, whereas the the New York has ten guns of that calibre mounted two to a turret. She will be manned by 53 officers and 927 men. When ready for commission she will have cost the Government about \$12,000,000.

The Arizona will be named by Miss Esther Ross of Prescott, Ariz. Miss Ross will smash a bottle of American champagne against the ship as she starts on her journey to the water. Those who are expected to witness the launching include Secretary of the Navy Daniels, Assistant Secretary of the Navy Roosevelt, Admiral Fletcher, Vice Admiral Mayo, Rear Admirals Usher, Boush, McLean, and Coffman, General Leonard Wood, various city and borough officials, officers of the army on duty in and near New York, members of the Navy League, and thousands of invited guests.