

GIANT U. S. WARSHIP TAKES THE WATER

Gov. Cruce's Daughter, Half- Indian, Names the Fight- ing Oklahoma.

ON "ERRANDS OF PEACE"

Secretary Daniels and Senators In- dorse Invocation of Bishop Hess at Launching.

Special to The New York Times.

CAMDEN, N. J., March 23.—"I christen thee Oklahoma," cried Miss Lorena Jane Cruce, daughter of Gov. Cruce of the new western State, and as the bottle of champagne crashed smartly on the prow of the superdreadnought the cheers of patriotic Oklahomans vied with the whistles of tugs at the yards of the New York Shipbuilding Company.

Just before the big ship was given its name by Miss Cruce, Bishop E. E. Hoss of Muskogee, Okla., in a brief invocation dedicated the dreadnought to the "errands of peace and Christianity." The invocation was at the suggestion of Mrs. Reynold Hall, President of the Ship Sponsors' Society, and it was said to be the first time in more than half a century that a battleship launching was preceded by prayer.

Senators Owen and Gore, who were members of the launching party, in addresses expressed pleasure at the consecration of the ship to what Secretary Daniels of the Navy termed the "typification of the national Christian spirit." Mr. Daniels said he hoped the Oklahoma never would be called upon to fight or to win a battle in warfare.

The American Navy's biggest battleship afloat took the water like a duck at noon, and Miss Cruce, 19 years old, who was surrounded by a bevy of fifteen girl friends all carrying American Beauty roses and wearing mistletoe, their State's flower, beamed.

She is a half blooded Indian girl, her mother being half Choctaw, half Chickasaw. Miss Cruce is one of the prettiest girls in her State. She was graduated from high school at 15, and from the State Normal School two years later.

"Oklahoma, you know, is a prohibition State," said Miss Cruce, "and father was deluged with letters from ministers and Prohibitionists asking that mineral water be used. But you know the sailors are superstitious about it, so it was champagne for the christening."

Gov. Cruce was expected but was prevented from attending the launching, and appointed James A. Whitcomb of New York as his representative. Senator Gore and Senator Owen of Oklahoma; members of the State's delegation in the House of Representatives, several State officials and others from Oklahoma were in the group surrounding Miss Cruce. The Secretary of the Navy and Mrs. Daniels, Assistant Secretary Roosevelt, members of the Congressional Naval Committees, naval officers, and many invited guests from eastern cities made up the rest of the christening party. The flag of Oklahoma flew over historic Independence Hall in Philadelphia all day. The flag was presented to the city several years ago by an Oklahoma delegation on a tour of the East to study municipal conditions.

The gift of the State of Oklahoma to her fighting namesake is a splendid silver service. At the luncheon following the launching Miss Cruce was presented with a diamond studded bracelet of Venetian workmanship and design by President Samuel Knox of the shipbuilding company.

The great hull of the Oklahoma later was warped into a dock near the Argentine battleship *Movano* and the Chinese cruiser *Fie Hung Just*, being completed at the yards. The *Movano* is nearly ready for a trial trip.

A sister ship to the Oklahoma, the Nevada, is under construction at Quincy, Mass. Only the Pennsylvania, building at Newport News, and the still nameless battleship No. 39, the keel of which was laid last week at the New York Navy Yard, will outstrip the Oklahoma in tonnage, displacement, length, or the power of her great guns. Her length is 583 feet and her displacement will be 27,500 tons, or 500 tons greater than the largest American fighting ship now afloat.

In both armament and armor the Oklahoma will be far ahead of present American ships. Her principal weapons will be ten fourteen-inch guns, capable of firing shells weighing 1,400 pounds. A feature of the armament will be the placing of three of these great guns in one turret. One of the three-gun turrets will be on the forecastle deck along with a turret of two big guns. Another two-gun turret will be on the quarter deck, and astern of this will be another turret with the remaining three fourteen-inch guns.

About the big warship will also be distributed twenty-one five-inch guns and some minor armament consisting of three-pounders, one-pounders, three-inch field pieces, and machine guns. The armor belt is especially heavy. It is 13½ inches thick and will extend 400 feet along each side of the hull from 8½ feet below the water line to 9 feet above the water. There are two protective decks to guard against plunging fire, one 3 inches thick and the other 1½ inches.

The Oklahoma will burn oil, and her engines will have 24,800 indicated horse power, sufficient to develop a speed of 20½ knots an hour. The supply of oil fuel will be carried in the double bottom of the ship, which eliminates the necessity of coal bunkers.

MAY APPROVE COURT HOUSE

Justices Expected to Pass on Lowell Plan on Thursday.

The Supreme Court Justices are expected to give on Thursday their long-hoped-for approval to the design for the new County Court House, selected by the authorities named by the Court House Board as a Jury of Award in the competition a year ago. Since then the design of Guy Lowell has been modified in certain respects in the interest of light and ventilation, and it is believed that when the changes he has made are put before the full meeting of the Justices on Thursday they will give a provisional assent to the selection of his design.

Negotiations proceeded for several months between the members of the Court House Board and the Justices, with the result that on Dec. 12 the board agreed that the Justices might select certain authorities on ventilation and light to whom Mr. Lowell could submit his plan. This committee presented its report on Saturday to Justice Dugro, as Chairman of the Justices' committee on the new Court House, and he summoned a meeting of the other members of the committee, Justices Greenbaum, Seabury, Delaney, and Page, yesterday afternoon. None of them was willing yesterday afternoon to discuss the report, but it was understood that it was such that the full meeting of Justices is likely to accept the Lowell plans.

These, as modified, it is believed, will not show any great departure from the design already published. The Court House will be circular and with four porticos facing north, south, east, and west. It was intended that across the annular court should be thrown two bridges for each courtroom unit, one for the public and one for the Justices. It is now proposed to do away with the separate passages for the Justices, and this will leave the annular court freer for the flow of air and will reduce the cost of construction.

Mr. Lowell has modified the colonnade of pillars which will surround the building about half way up. It was feared that they would cut off much of the light from the windows between them. The design has been modified so that the cost of foundations and construction will come within \$10,000,000, which is all President McAneny of the Aldermen says the Board of Estimate will appropriate for the building.