

# THE WORLD'S GREATEST CRUISER,

The Prince of Wales on his present visit to the tercentenary celebrations at Quebec, made the Atlantic crossing on the nation's greatest cruiser, "the Mystery ship," the Indomitable.

She is one of three sister ships, the other two being the Invincible and Inflexible, which were voted in 1905, but not laid down till 1906, and which are to all cruisers of the past what the Dreadnought is to all earlier battleships.

She is at once the fastest, the largest, and the most heavily armed cruiser afloat; indeed, in many respects she resembles a fast battleship rather than a cruiser. Begun some months later than

each mast, the details of the system being absolutely confidential. But the general arrangement is that electrical transmitters from the fire control positions aloft send down to indicators at the guns the range in yards, the deflection to right or left, the order to commence or suspend fire, and the final signal, a loud ring on a gong, to fire the gun.

Where the guns are all of the same calibre or size, as they are in the Indomitable, the work of fire-control is simplified. In battle with a big antagonist she would use only her 12in. weapons, and they would have to do the work of knocking out the adversary.

the Parsons turbine type, developing over 41,000 horse-power—the most powerful ever put into a British warship. They drive four screws, and on her recent official trials, which were carried out under war conditions, propelled her at a rate in excess of 25 knots.

The reports that she can do 27 or 28 knots are not correct, but she is none the less one of the fastest large ships in the world, though at sea she will probably be at least two knots slower than the new monster Cunarders.

The turbine engines run smoothly and almost without attention; indeed, it is said that the engine-room staff in these

at battle range of any guns under the 10in. weapon. Her turrets are of 7in. steel.

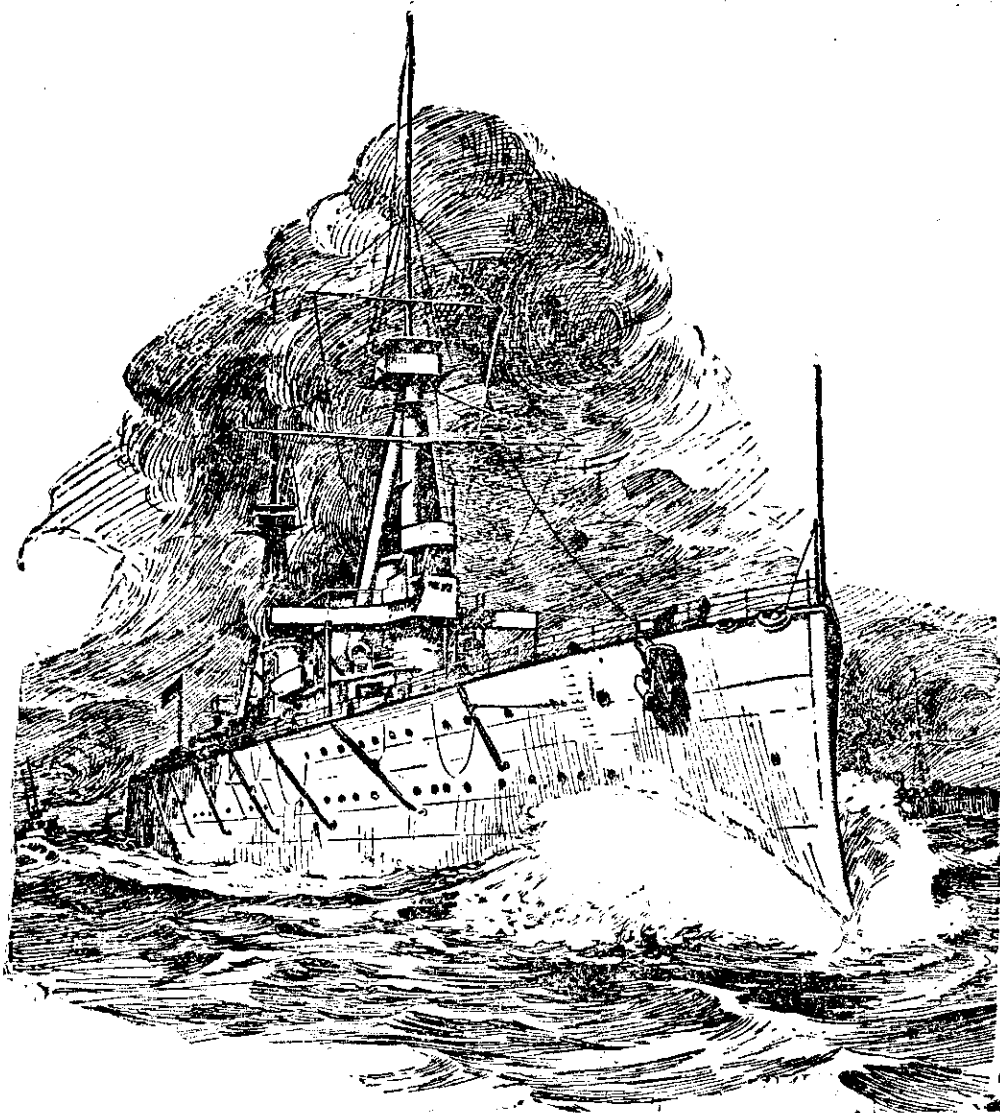
All her equipment is of the latest pattern. She has a long-distance wireless signalling installation, which will exchange signals at distances up to 600 or 700 miles, and for shorter distance signalling the very powerful form of flashing searchlight devised by Sir Percy Scott. With this messages can be rapidly sent to a range of thirty miles.

The immense advance in signalling which the last twelve years have witnessed will be understood when it is remembered that in 1898 there was no form of signal fitted in warships which could be trusted to send messages more than ten miles with any certainty.

In external appearance, the Indomitable, with her two masts of equal size, is a more graceful-looking ship than the Dreadnought. She is in every way worthy of representing the British Navy at the Quebec tercentenary, and will surpass the foreign warships present on that occasion. Her effect on naval construction has already been remarkable.

In Germany two even more gigantic and powerful cruisers are now being built of her special type, while Japan is also constructing cruisers of the same general design.

It is gratifying to British national pride to reflect that she represents the conception of British genius, and that the highest compliment to her qualities is being paid by those who are copying her many novel features.



THE GREAT CRUISER INDOMITABLE.

the Dreadnought, and built much more slowly, she embodies many improvements upon that famous ship.

The first point to notice is the immense power of her artillery. She carries eight huge 12in. guns, each 45 feet long, and each capable of firing an 850lb. shell twice in the minute.

These guns are mounted in pairs in four turrets, and the turrets are so arranged that all the eight big guns can fire on either broadside, and six of them ahead or astern. As in the Dreadnought, there is some risk of the turrets injuring one another.

To meet this danger special alarm trumpets are fitted in the turrets, which sound when there is any obstruction in the line of fire. The word "danger" appears and the trumpet emits a note which no one can mistake, even in the tremendous din of battle.

The guns are directed from fire-control stations, which are duplicated, one on

Some idea of the blast and the force of these guns can be gained from this fact—that during her trials two of the amidship turret guns were trained right ahead and fired simultaneously.

A boat was hanging on the davits, well out of the actual path of the projectiles, but in the track of the blast of gas which accompanies them.

After the shots had been fired the boat was left a mass of matchwood, lying on the deck. The projectiles from these mammoth guns will pierce 4ft. 3in. of solid iron placed close to the muzzle. At 5,000 yards they will penetrate with ease 14in. of the best and strongest steel armour now made.

Besides her eight big guns, the Indomitable carries sixteen 4in. guns for the purpose of meeting torpedo boat attack; eight of these are mounted, two on the top of each turret, and the other eight on the upper works.

The engines of the Indomitable are of

new turbine vessels have so little to do when running at high speed that there is danger of the men going to sleep. Truly an enormous change from the reciprocating engine, which had always to be watched with the closest attention when the machinery was working at full power.

The boilers are fitted with appliances for burning oil, though coal is the main fuel. But if it is desired to raise the speed in an emergency with the help of the oil the work can be done without imposing any strain on the stokers.

This capacity for making sudden spurts and maintaining the speed for many hours almost without effort is one of the most valuable results of the mixed oil and coal fuel system in modern British warships.

The Indomitable displaces 17,250 tons, and is 530 feet long, so that she is the longest vessel in the Royal Navy. She has armour of Krupp steel 7in. thick on her side, or sufficient to defeat the attack

The sweet girl strolled along the block.  
The cheeky dude remarked: "Ahem!"  
Not dreaming of the sudden shock  
That would reward his stratagem!  
The maid remarked, with humour grim:  
"Your cough seems bad to-day! I'm sure  
You'd best take this!" and handed him  
A bottle of Woods' Great Peppermint  
Cure.

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