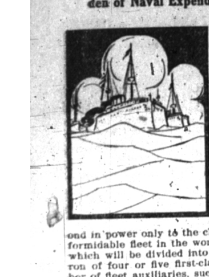
Our Washington Letter

Review of Biggest Fleet in American Warships Ever Assembled—Second Only to Channel Squadron of Great Britain—The Public Burden of Naval Expenditures—The Various Classes of Negroes.

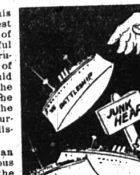


WASHINGTON.—It is proposed in September to have a review of the biggest fleets of American warships ever assembled. It will take place either in the waters of Long Island Sound or off the coast of Massachusetts and will be witnessed by President Roosevelt. Before he left Washington Mr. Roosevelt informed Secretary of the Navy Bonaparte that he wished to inspect the Atlantic fleet before it left for the southern drill grounds in the early autumn. The secretary is now making the preparations to have the big fleet assembled some time in September, and it is probable that in addition to the president the reviewing party will include Secretary Bonaparte and Admiral Dewey and several members of the house and senate committees on naval affairs.

The fleet will be assembled under the flag of Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans and will be second in power only to the channel squadron of Great Britain, which is the most formidable fleet in the world. The fleet will embrace 14 first-class battleships which will be divided into four squadrons, an auxiliary squadron of four armored cruisers, a torpedo flotilla and a number of four or five first-class torpedo boats.

It is expected that five or six new battleships fresh from the yards of the contractors will be in this force, including the Georgia, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Virginia, Connecticut and Louisiana. It is probable that the Connecticut, one of the new 16,000 ton battleships, will be selected as the flagship of the squadron. The total tonnage of the battleships will be represented 55,000 tons, making 189,000 tons and the armored cruiser squadron will represent 55,000 tons, making a grand displacement of about 235,000 tons in the vessels to be reviewed.

THE PROPAGANDA OF DISARMAMENT.



While preparations are being made for this grand naval display there are some earnest parliamentarians who will meet in London with the idea that their recommendation will receive consideration by The Hague conference which follows. It is already assured that the disarmament will be brought to the attention of the coming Hague conference. The American delegates will favor it and if necessary will take the initiative in bringing it forward. The new Liberal government of Great Britain has declared favorably for the proposition and it is understood that England's delegates will be prepared to support it at The Hague.

Disarmament as a theory has been under general discussion for years. Advocates of peace and arbitrators have laid the blame of failure to accomplish something in this line to the absence of a feasible programme. Even publish something in this line to the absence of a feasible programme. Even plish something in this line to the absence of a feasible programme. Even publish the proposition be rejected at The Hague it is felt that the discussion of the subject will bring before the world the desirability of putting a check on war. There are indications that France would welcome a proposition to stop building ships, as would also Germany, who will continue to emulate Great Britain as long as that country keeps adding to her navy. Naval expenditures in Britain as long as that country keeps adding to her navy. Naval expenditures in Britain as long as that country keeps adding to her navy. Naval expenditures in