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UNCLE SAM'S NAVY.

NEW VESSELS THAT ARE TO BE SOMETHING MORE THAN TUBS.

Description and Appearance of the Now Steel Cruisers Authorized by the Last Congress-Their Construction to be Begun Immediately.

In the closing hours of the late session of congress an appropriation was made for the construction of four new war vessels that will equal in efficiency anything of their size alloat. So it would appear that Uncle Sam is at last taking steps toward additions to his navy that will be war ships in fact, not targets for the humorist's shots The navy of the United States consists now

of about 100 vessels of all classes. Of these nineteen are ironelads, five are new double turreted monitors, and the rest, with some repairs, might be made serviceable for harbor defense. All the other vessels are wooden except six. The initial ships in the new navy are the

Dolphin, Atlanta, Boston and Chicago. The first two are in commission and the others will soon be finished.

The four additional vessels authorized by congress are: One steel cruise# 4,000 tons; one steel cruiser, 3,700 tons; ono steel cruiser, 1,700 tons; one gunboat, 870 tons.



This vessel is to be 310 feet long, with 49 feet beam and a draught of 18 feet 9 inches. Sho will have twin screws giving her a speed of 18 knots. Her coal capacity will be 850 tons, and her complement of men will be 300. Her main battery will consist of 126-inch breech-loading rifled cannons. The secondary battery will possess 10 pieces of revolving cannon, besides gatling guns. The battery will be mounted in sponsons on contral pivot carriages supporting segmental shields 2 inches in thickness-2 under the forecastle, 2 under the poop, 4 under the main bridges and the balance amidships. Four guns will be able to concentrate within 400 feet of bow or stern; either broadside of 6 guns will concentrail on an object within 100 feet of the ship's side.

The vessel will be built of steel throughout, having a double bottom 3 feet 3 inches in depth running the entire length of the ma-chinery space, or 129 feet. The machinery, magazines, shell rooms, torpedo rooms and steering gear are placed below an armored deck, which is 3 inches thick on its sloping sides and 2 inches on the horizontal part amidships. Above this armored deck the entire length of the vessel runs the borth dock, containing the sleeping rooms for the officers and men.

The vessel will be provided with 6 above water torpedo-launching tubes, also electric search lights and apparatus for lighting the ship, also a complete system of forcel ventila-tion. The protective deck will be carried down to strengthen the ram-shaped bow, which will be thoroughly stiffened and strengthened by bulkheads and breasthooks for ramming purposes. The hull will be subdivided by fore and aft and athwartship bulkheads into over 150 watertight compartments



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