

LAUNCH OF THE MONITOR "WYOMING."

The "Wyoming" is one of four similar vessels which were authorized in May, 1898. The others are the "Arkansas," building at Newport News; the "Connecticut," building at Bath, Me.; and the "Florida," which is under construction at the Lewis Nixon yard, Elizabethport, N. J. These ships represent the modern development of the monitor type of warship, and in them an attempt is made to mitigate as far as possible the inherent defects of a system of design which, while it was well suited to the rivers, bays and shallow waters of the civil war, is ill adapted to the requirements of a modern warship, which should be capable of keeping the sea and casting loose its guns in almost any kind of weather.

However, within the limitations of her type, the "Wyoming" is a serviceable vessel, for she is heavily armed, well protected, and with her modern mo-

tive power and for a monitor superior accommodation, she will prove to be economical and comfortable. The four vessels were authorized largely in response to the symptoms of hysteria that developed among the citizens of some of our large Eastern seaboard cities when they imagined themselves threatened by the guns of Cervera's hapless fleet, and it is probable that the new monitors will find a permanent station in four of our most important Atlantic harbors.

The "Wyoming" was launched at the Union Iron Works, San Francisco, on September 8, in the presence of His Excellency the Governor of Wyoming and an enormous crowd of spectators. While a powerful ves-

sel, the "Wyoming" is considerably less in dimensions compared with the "Monterey," though both are practically of the same type. The "Monterey" is 255 feet in length, and is 59 feet beam, with a depth of 14 feet 10 inches. The "Wyoming's" dimensions are: Length, 252 feet; beam, 50 feet; and mean draught, 12 feet 6 inches. The side armor of the former vessel is 13 inches in greatest thickness, tapering to 8 inches at the ends; of the latter, 11 inches, tapering to 3 and 5

one round from them will have 12,800 foot-tons more energy than one round from the four guns of the larger vessel.

The keel of the new monitor was laid in October, 1899, and her completion is promised in six months.

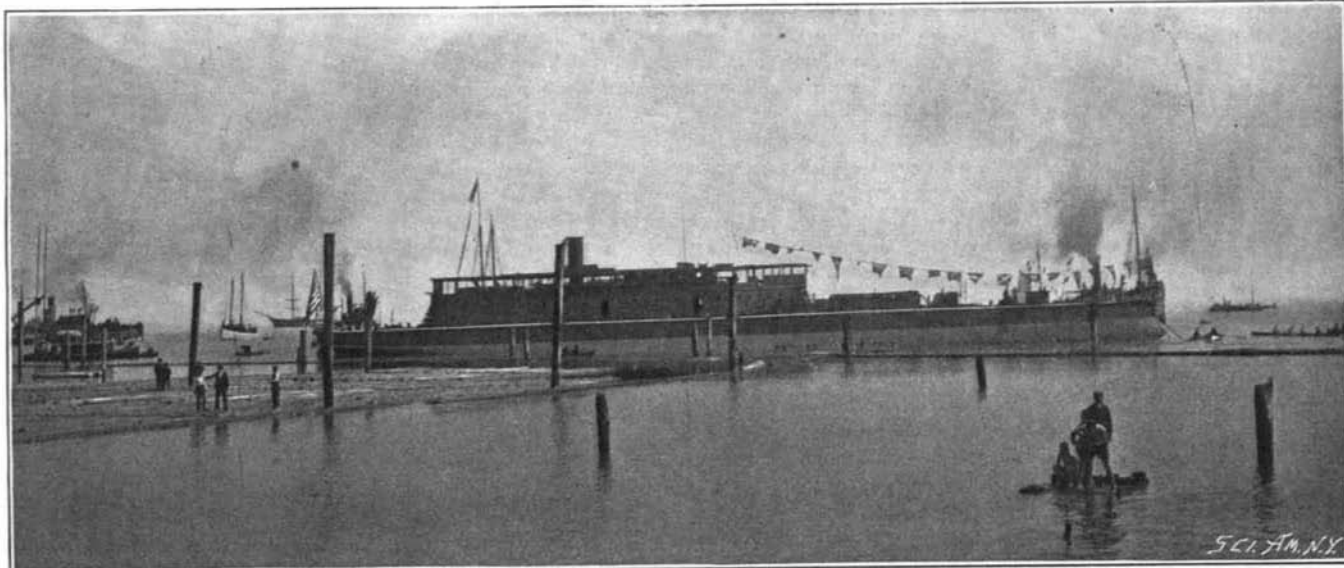
Signaling With Kites.

A system of war signals with colored parachutes in midair was tested September 29, by W. A. Eddy, of Bayonne. A light box 3 feet square

was sent up by two 9-foot kites. The box was divided into two compartments, each provided with a trap door and each contained an American flag and a folded paper parachute. One of the parachutes had secured to it a disk of silvered paper. The flashing of the sunlight upon such a disk can be seen a long distance. The trap doors were secured by lighted time fuses, and one was timed to release the door in five minutes, and the

other in ten minutes. When the parachute box reached a height of 500 feet, the first match released the door and the parachute sailed slowly away with the flag flying. The kites then carried the box up higher before the second compartment was opened by the other fuse. The idea is to use different colored flags suspended in series under the parachutes, so that messages can be sent aloft, where they can be readily read at a considerable distance by the aid of glasses.

THE Russian ice-breaking steamer "Ermak" is being lengthened and the form of the bow has been altered.



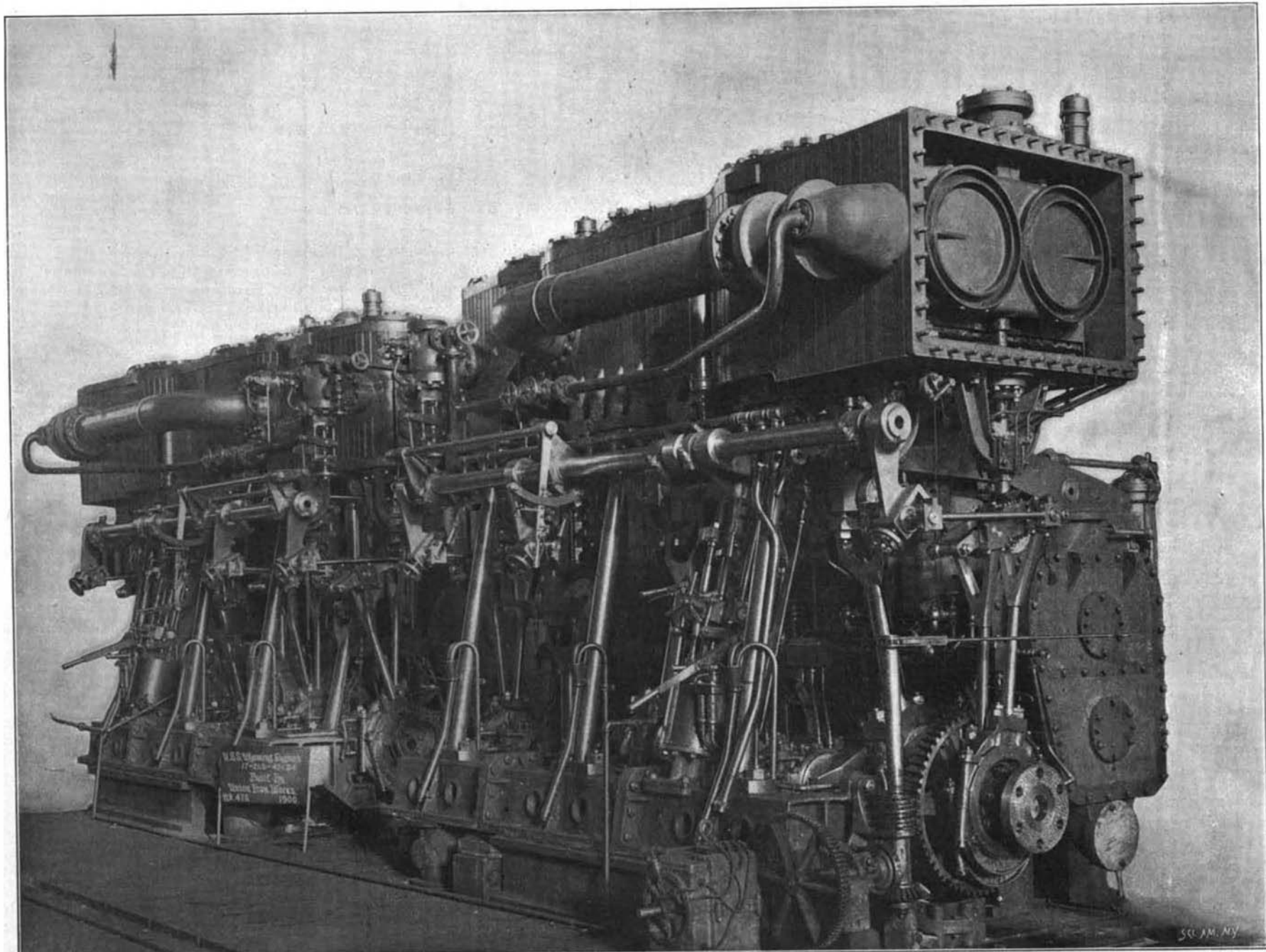
SINGLE-TURRET, HARBOR-DEFENSE MONITOR "WYOMING."

Displacement, 3,235 tons. **Speed,** 12 knots. **Normal Coal Supply,** 400 tons. **Armor:** Belt, 11 inches; turrets, 10 inches; barbets, 11 inches; deck, 1 1/2 inches. **Armament:** Two 40-caliber, 12-inch B. L. rifles; four 4-inch R. F. rifles; two 6-pounder semi-automatics; eight 1-pounder automatics. **Complement,** 131. **Date,** 1900.

inches. Displacement: "Monterey," 4,084; "Wyoming," 3,235; horse power engines, 5,244 and 2,400 respectively; speed, 13.6 and 12.

The armament of the "Monterey" consists of two 12-inch and two 10-inch main battery, six 6-pounders, four 1-pounders, two Gatlings. Of the "Wyoming," two 12-inch, four 4-inch rapid fire, two 6-pound semi-automatic, four 1-pound automatic, and additional four automatic 1-pounders have been authorized.

Although the "Wyoming" will carry only two heavy guns, as compared with four carried by the "Monterey," the increased power of her two 12-inch rifles, due to greater length and smokeless powder, is such that



TWIN VERTICAL TRIPLE EXPANSION ENGINES OF THE "WYOMING."—INDICATED HORSE POWER ON TRIAL, 2,400.