AIR NEWEST DEFENCE OF DREADNOUGHTS

Latest American Battleships Equipped With System of Protection Against Torpedo Attacks Which Is Expected to Make Them Nearly Unsinkable by U-Boat Attacks—The Device Already Put to Practical Test in Saving Wrecked Steamships

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The building of Lusitania was one of the greatest undertakings in the history of the world. The tremendous amount of work involved, the vast number of men employed, and the many difficulties encountered, all combined to make it a truly remarkable achievement. The building of a warship is even more difficult, as it involves not only the construction of the hull, but also the installation of all the necessary machinery and equipment. The latest American battleships are equipped with a system of protection against torpedo attacks that is expected to make them nearly unsinkable by U-boat attacks. This device has already been put to practical test in saving wrecked steamships.

The U.S.S. North Carolina, the first ship to be equipped with the new self-saving system, is shown in the accompanying illustration. The principle of the device is based on the idea of making the ship as watertight as possible, and providing it with a means of pumping out water as it enters. The ship is divided into several compartments, and each compartment is provided with a pump. In the event of the ship being struck by a torpedo, the pumps in the affected compartments will be turned on automatically, and the water will be pumped out. This will prevent the ship from sinking, and will also allow the crew to escape. The device has already been tested in practice, and has proved to be very effective.

The construction of the new battleships is being carried out in many yards throughout the country. The shipyards are working around the clock, and the ships are being delivered at a rapid rate. The new battleships are expected to be completed by the end of the year, and will form a valuable addition to the United States fleet.