MISS E. L. FLEMIN.
A Peninsula State girl, who will name the Florida.

HALF BILLION IN SHIPS

Powers Spending This Sum for Half a Hundred Dreadnoughts.

The Dreadnought race is gaining headway rapidly. Men of nations which does not possess a Dreadnought will be "in the swale," a situation which would be literally true in case of a naval ramnit with a fleet of those modern armates of the sea. These observations are called forth by the growing number of requests for large and powerful ships for the defense of the United States, which would be likely to be a costly business. In favor of appropriations for and launching of speed trials of this new type of battleships.

A man of power and influence is the Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Theodore Roosevelt, who has been urged to build more Dreadnoughts.

In regard to Dreadnoughts, it is hardly probable that any one of the large and powerful ships demonstrated its efficiency, twenty years ago, for any reason except that it was planned for building, building or the possession of one or more of these stupendous engines of war. These nations are setting a pace which should make the heads of the nations of peace associations rise, a pace literally billion, financially as well as in the flesh. On the battle of the cost of the Dreadnought, the fifty-five ships of this class built or projected will represent an expenditure of a million dollars. All of this is suggested by two occurrences among the many of a similar character which could be mentioned.

On May 12 the Florida, the fourth of the Dreadnoughts constructed by the United States, was completed. If all goes well, she will be ordered to the Brooklyn navy yard into the powerful waters of the East River in the presence of President Taft, Secretary Meyer, and many well known persons concerned in the construction of the navy. In the first of American vessels of this type, the North Dakota, and the Delaware, of 20,000 ton displacement, have recently been launched, added to the Atlantic fleet, and the Utah, the sister ship of the Florida, which is being built at a private yard, was launched a short time ago. The Utah and the Florida, however, are to be nearly 2000 tons larger than the first pair of all-big-gun ships. The third pair of this class of ships, the Arkansas and the Wyoming, which are to be 24,000-ton vessels, carrying twelve 12-inch guns and which will be the largest battleships in the world, are now under construction. Congress is discussing a fourth pair, which may be even larger and carry 14-inch guns.

In other words, the United States is to the race with the other powers.

This race is so strenuous as to seem almost to have assumed the character of a race, that another proceeds to set a new one afloat. The North Dakota and the Delaware received their bands for only a short time. It is said that they had their steamy trials last week and demonstrated their superiority over others of their class than the British government launched the Neptune, with a displacement of 250 tons greater, and the Vanguard, another British Dreadnought, slightly smaller, broke the speed record of the North Dakota, at 22.23 knots, by travelling at the rate of 22.4 knots.

When the Utah was launched she was the largest battleship afloat, but a few days ago, and this is the second occurrence of the two received in that record being set by the launching of the Ominilla, number nine of the British fleet of Dreadnoughts to touch the water. The first Dreadnought was 600 feet long and of 22,700 tons. This new one, the first of a group of three vessels of 22,700 tons each, is 545 feet long. The others are the Hecules and the Victoria.

Great Britain expects that she will have more Dreadnoughts by the year 1912, all available for service, equipped with ten 12-inch guns each and each able to travel at a speed of over 22 knots. The vessels of her already fleet are the Dreadnought, the Invincible, the Lion, the Cresswell, the St. Vincent, the Vanguard, the Tenacious, the Superb and the Neptune. Another vessel, to be known as the Lion, a 20,000-ton armored cruiser, which it is expected will be able to travel at a speed of 24 or 25 knots, has been laid down. It may be imagined what the power of the engine of this vessel will be when it is remembered that the speed which the Lusitania and the Mauretanian are able to maintain across the ocean is between 25 and 26 knots. Of course, the Lion will not be as large in size as these vessels, although

THE GERMAN DREADNOUGHT NASSAU.
One of four sister battleships of 19,000 tons each, the first of Germany's fleet of Dreadnoughts. The others are the Westfalen, the Rheinland and the Poseen.

THE NORTH DAKOTA, ONE OF THE DREADNOUGHTS OF OUR NAVY, COMMISSIONED A FEW DAYS AGO.
This vessel of 20,000 tons looks as the Florida when completed. The 26,000-ton Arkansas and Wyoming will also be similar in appearance.

(Photograph by C. C. Mather.)

THE MOST HEAVILY ARMED SHIP.