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PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD WILL TOWARDS MEN

Paradoxical England Pays Her Respects to Mars and the Star of Bethlehem by Experimenting with Aerial Artillery and Launching Great Battleships that Burn Fuel-Oil Instead of Coal

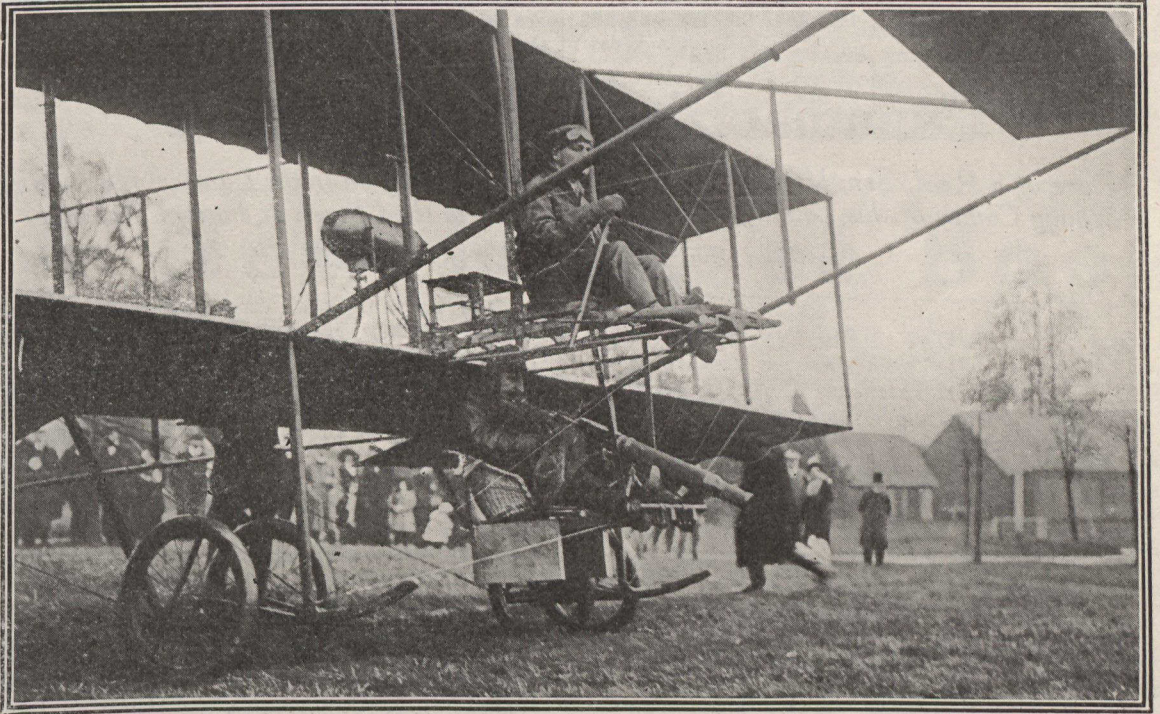
WHEN in doubt blame the poet. It was peace-loving Tennyson of the Victorian era who prophesied in "Locksley Hall" two of the pictures on this page; in the lines:

"Heard the heavens fill with shouting and there rained a ghastly dew From the nation's airy navies grappling in the central blue."

The poet's countrymen are already testing out aerial artillery. Mr. Churchill's naval holiday is still a poet's dream. The First Lord of the Admiralty has himself become an aeronaut and is applying for an aviator's license. He has launched two ultra-modern battleships intended to fit into the time when the coal mines of his colleague's (Lloyd George) country may be without coal. The "Warspite" and its predecessor of a few days ago will burn oil which has an immediate advantage over coal, because it can be carried in tanks or pipes anywhere in the vessel that it may be needed as ballast, and will not take up the space of coal.

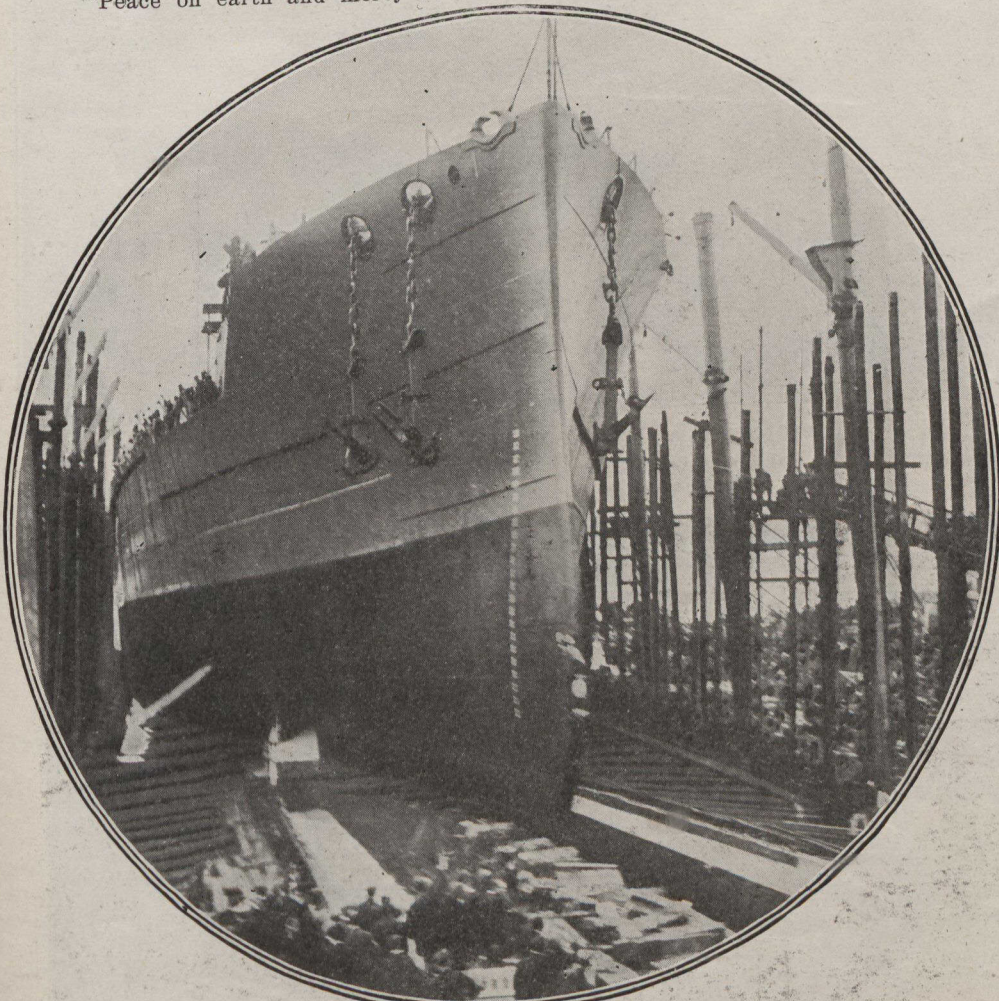
England has glorified Christmas and goodwill to men more than any other nation. She has also deified war. On Christmas Eve the whole blessed little island on the shoulder of Europe will be a jargon of happy bells. And if old Santa Claus should happen to stop at Bisley he would see a stranger air-craft than his sledge—in the artillery air-ship. If he should touch at Devonport he might bump into the funnels of the "Warspite" with her tanks of oil. And if another poet of vision comes along we may yet foresee the crew of an artillery air-ship manoeuvring in mid-air on Christmas Eve and singing,

"Peace on earth and mercy mild."



TESTING OUT A NEW CHRISTMAS IDEA.

This is an Artillery Gun Attached to an Airship. At Bisley, Recently, Experiments were Made with This Gun by Lieut. Stellingwerf, a Belgian Officer.



THE GOOD-WILL OF THE "WARSPITE."

This is the Second All-oil Battleship of the British Navy to Take Water. At Devonport Recently Winston Churchill Benevolently Permitted Mrs. Austen Chamberlain, Wife of a Political Opponent, to Christen This Monster of Eight 15-inch Guns, Carrying the Largest Weapons of Any Warship Afloat.



Firing the Aerial Gun from a Tripod Field Mount.