

guns built in during construction, and manned by half crews of Naval reserve men. An agreement was come to, and the plans for these ships were submitted to and approved by the Admiralty from their very inception. The "Teutonic" is so arranged that 12 guns can be mounted within 48 hours after arrival in port. Her length is 582 feet (capable of being docked at Halifax, as before mentioned,) beam 57 feet, and depth of hold 39 feet 4 inches. She is fitted with triple expansion engines, one for each screw, of 17,000 I. H. P. The manner in which the hulls of the "Teutonic" and her sister ship, the "Majestic," have been put together is not only novel, but marks a great improvement in marine naval construction so far as increased strength is concerned. In the first place, the plates used for their outer shells are of unusual dimensions, being three feet in width and many of them twenty-four and twenty-eight feet in length—dimensions not possible if steel had not been used in making them. Instead of being put together end to end and butt-riveted, they are laid on the steel frame so as to overlap each other vertically, and then trebly, quadruply and even quintuply riveted together. In fact, unless welded together the plates of the hull could not be more compactly united.

The vessels have each four decks, made by covering strong steel beams with plates of the same material trebly riveted together. In addition to the seventeen transverse bulkheads which hold the sides of the vessel in a rigid grip, there is a longitudinal bulkhead running through the centre of the ship for three-fourths of its length from the keelson to the main deck, which, like a huge backbone, locks all the parts of the hull together. The twin screws are fitted to overlap at the tips, the starboard screw being carried some feet further aft than the other in order to get clearance. No outside stern tubes, in the proper acceptance of the term, are used, for the propeller shafts are carried out in what are really protuberances of the hull in the run of the vessel. The two sets of engines in the "Teutonic" are not only divided from each other, but, according to the requirements of the Admiralty, are placed well below the water line. The "Teutonic" and the "Majestic" when armed carry 12 Armstrong guns, 8 on the upper and promenade decks and 2 each on the turtle backs. These guns are quick-firing and capable of discharging 12 shots a minute, and are fitted with oil buffers which absorb the recoil. The value of these vessels as troopships will be readily understood from the following facts: Accommodation on each of them can be provided for 1000 cavalry and their horses, or for 2000 infantry. They could reach Halifax in 5 days and Cape Town in 12½ days; via the Suez Canal they could land troops at Bombay in 14 days, at Calcutta in 17½, at Hong Kong in 21, and at Sydney in 22 days. Their coal supply is sufficient for 17 days steaming at full speed, or at half speed for three months. In case, therefore, of the Canal being closed,