

NEW VESSELS OF WAR.

Fifteen Steam Gunboats Ordered at Mystic, Conn.

MYSTIC BRIDGE, Conn., May 7, 1898.

For many years this place has enjoyed an enviable reputation for the building of nautical craft of all descriptions, and "Mystic built" clippers have become almost as famous as the well known rakish Baltimore vessels. During the war many ships and war vessels were furnished to the government by the yards on either bank of the Mystic river. The Galena, the first experiment by the Naval Bureau in iron vessels, the Yazoo, the Vicksburg, and other vessels of prominence were erected here. Since the war closed, however, shipbuilding has shared the ill-fortune of kindred branches of mechanical industry, and, with the exception of the occasional erection of some small craft, the yards have been entirely closed. But at last a change, and that a welcome one, has come. Within the last few hours the official announcement has been made upon our streets that fifteen gunboats are to be built here within the next ninety days. A diversity of opinion exists as to their ultimate destination. Ostensibly they are for the Spanish government; but it is currently reported, and possibly with a greater reason for truth, that they are designed for the Cuban insurrectionists. The contracts for the work are given out by C. H. Delamater and C. H. Mallory, both of New York. Each boat is to be 107 feet long and of 140 tons measurement. The contracts for the joiner work have not yet been awarded, but they will probably be given to parties in this place. Five yards and about 500 men will be brought into requisition to finish the contracts in the required time. The machinery will probably be put in at New York. This is all that is known at present. More interesting developments are promised in a few days. It is the expressed hope of every one here that these diminutive vessels of war will eventually aid in wresting Cuba from the hands of the Spaniards.