

## THE NEW SHIP "EXPLORER" (\*) OF THE COAST & GEODETIC SURVEY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

(Extract from *Field Engineers Bulletin*, N° 13, December 1939).

Amid colorful ceremonies, Mrs. Leo Otis COLBERT, wife of the Director of the Bureau, christened the new vessel in the presence of over 3,000 spectators, and the *Explorer* slid gracefully into the water amid the cheers of the spectators and the whistles from surrounding vessels, especially the *Surveyor*, just returned a few days previously from a long and arduous season in Alaska. The launching was of particular interest locally for the *Explorer* is the largest ship built on Puget Sound since the boom of wartime construction.

The new vessel is scheduled for completion in the early spring \*\*, and at a cost of \$ 1,250,000, she will be the largest and most modern of the survey vessels of the Bureau. Her complement will be 90 officers and men, and after a shake-down cruise along the California coast, she will proceed to her first assignment of surveys off the Aleutian Islands in western Alaska.

The new vessel will have a cruising radius of 7,000 miles at a normal speed of about 14 knots. She is of steel construction throughout, 1,500 tons displacement, and an over-all length of 220 feet. She will be completely fireproof and of the two-compartment construction.

Her surveying equipment will include a Dorsey Fathometer, a Hughes depth recorder and several of her launches will be equipped with the newly developed Submarine Signal Company portable depth recorders. A taut-wire apparatus will be included.




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(\*) Detailed data concerning this new Surveying Vessel, as given in the official specifications, were reproduced in the *Hydrographic Review* of May 1939, Vol. XVI, N° 1, page 10.

(\*\*) During very satisfactory trials which took place in the beginning of 1940 in the vicinity of Sitka Alaska, a maximum speed of 15.4 knots was reached, for a draught of 12 feet 8 inches.