

MIKADO ATTENDS LAUNCHING.

Great Enthusiasm When the Satsuma
Takes the Water.

TOKIO, Nov. 15.—The first-class battleship Satsuma was launched to-day in the presence of the Emperor. The greatest enthusiasm was manifested.

The newspapers here reflect the epoch-making nature of the event, as indicated by the unprecedented presence of the Emperor, and eulogize the success of the naval constructors. It is taken for granted that the vessel is the equal of and perhaps superior to anything afloat.

The keel of the Satsuma was laid on May 15, 1905, so that she has taken a good deal longer to build than the British Dreadnought. The greatest secrecy has been maintained in regard to this, the largest battleship in the world. Japan did not even admit that a battleship was being built in a Japanese yard, though it is now known that another vessel like the Satsuma is in course of construction, and that two even larger vessels are planned.

According to unofficial reports the Satsuma is 482 feet long, has 83½ feet beam, and has a tonnage of 19,200. The tonnage of the Dreadnought is 18,000, but the British battleship is 500 feet long.

The armament of the Satsuma is to consist of four 12-inch guns, twelve 10-inch guns, and twelve 4.7-inch guns. She is to have a speed of nineteen knots. The Dreadnought carries ten 12-inch guns.

The Satsuma is the first battleship built in Japan. Various lessons learned in the recent war have been utilized in her construction. She was built by Japanese labor exclusively.

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