

THE FLINT TRIBUNE

SPRING 500 A.O.V.

KING TO ATTEND LAUNCH OF NEW WARSHIP

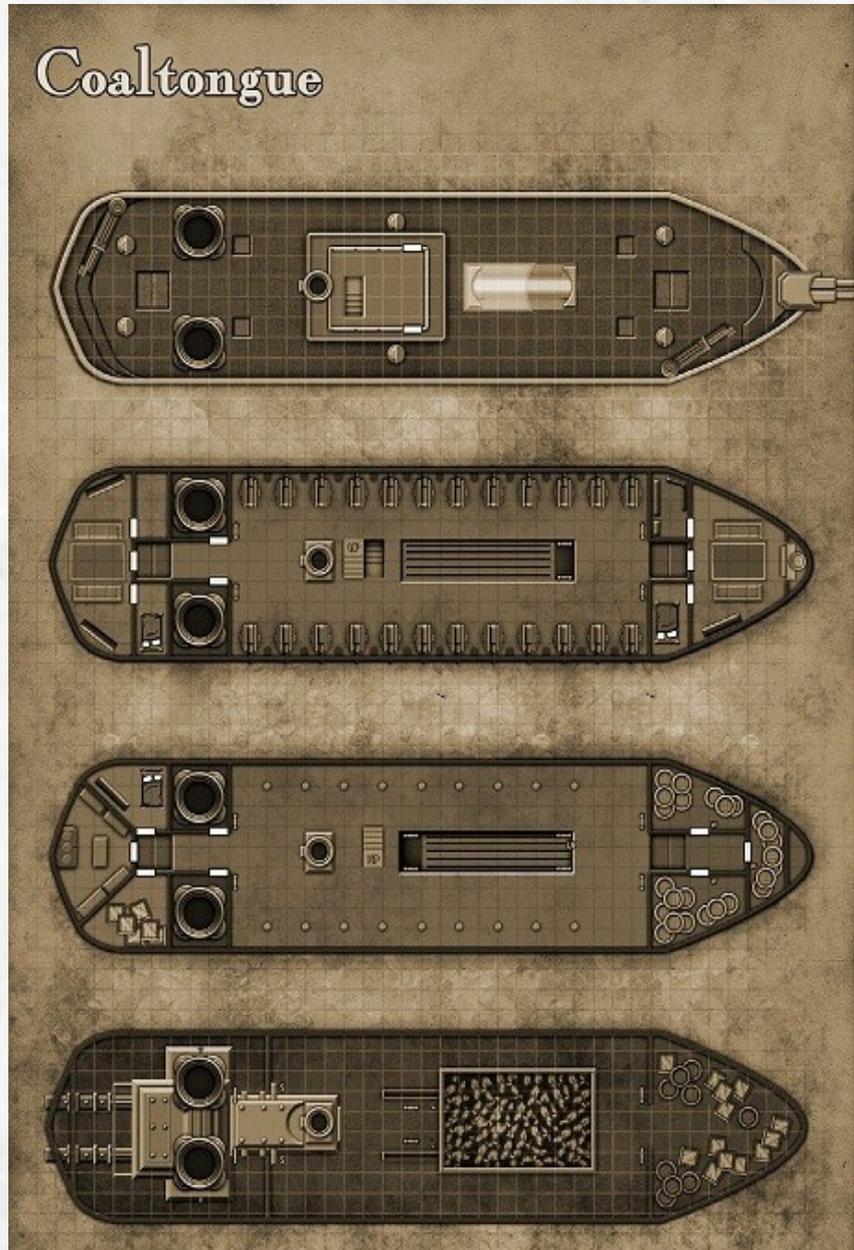
King Aodhan will be attending the launch of the new Risuri warship, *RNS Coaltongue*, next week. The *RNS Coaltongue* is the first Risuri ship to be powered solely by steam, and is being heralded as a technological marvel. The vessel will be launched from Flint Harbor, and thousands of spectators are expected to attend the gathering in Royal Square. The Royal Homeland Constabulary has been assigned to provide security, with a special team of constables attending the launch party aboard the ship itself. The security is being coordinated by Assistant Chief Inspector Stover Delft.

SEE THE GUEST LIST

The Flint Tribune has acquired a copy of the VIP guestlist for the launch of the *RNS Coaltongue*. We can exclusively reveal that important guests include the Danoran tiefling engineer Geoff Massarde, Captain Rutger Smith of the *RNS Impossible*, the king's sister, Duchess Ethelyn of Shale, and Flint's Principal Minister Harkover Lee. Security is said to be tight, especially considering the King's own attendance, but reports indicate that a specialized, dedicated team of Royal Homeland Constables has been assigned to the event.

ARE STEAM & STEAL A GOOD THING?

Growing dissatisfaction amongst the underclass has caused small riots and demonstrations to break out across the city of Flint



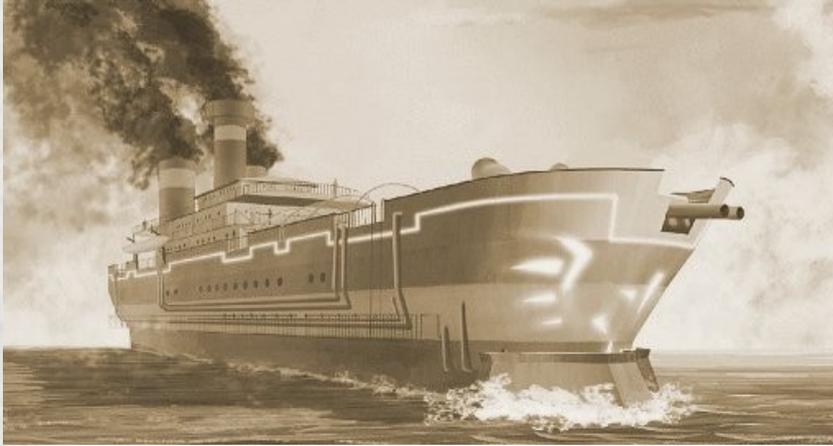
and across Risur at large. Indeed, this trend towards firearms and cannons rather than druidic and shaman based units has been blamed by higher-ups in the military for recent defeats in the Yerasol Archipelago. Skyseers continue to warn against offending the Unseen Court, pleas which go unheard by King Aodhan in his mission to speed up Risur's industrial revolution.

SPECIAL PROFILE: RNS COALTONGUE

The *R.N.S. Coaltongue* has a wooden hull sheathed with 5-inch thick iron armor plating, engraved with subtle magical icons of defense and power. Measuring 220 ft. long with a beam of 45 ft. and a draft of 20 ft., the warship has three lower decks and a two-story command bridge amidships the maindeck. The steam engine,

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powered by heating a boiler with burning firegems, gives the vessel a top speed of 15 knots.

Twelve cannons line each side of the gundeck, which is capped on the fore by the ship's mage's quarters, and on the aft by observation rooms. Both of these rooms can be converted to firing platforms when in pursuit or flight. Below that is the berth deck, capped by the ship's magazine at the fore and sickbay at the aft. Finally, the bottom deck contains the engine, fuel bins, and various cargo.

The bridge's main level contains quarters for captain and officers, while the second story command deck has speaking tubes to various sections of the ship, and is where the captain must stand to direct the Brand. On the maindeck sits an elaborate glass frame, reinforced by

magic to be as strong as steel, and shaped in a half-cylinder to resemble the boiler of a train locomotive. While its design is partially aesthetic, intended to evoke the power of Risur's new industry, this innovative structure is Risur's greatest trump card against Danoran warships: a

magical capacitor. Excess energy from the steam engine is stored in thin metallic etchings within the structure. Even while storing its full power, the interior of the capacitor is perfectly safe to walk through, and its expansive windows let it serve as venue for ceremonies and celebrations.

But the primary purpose of the capacitor is to power attack spells of the ship's warmages, and to charge the Brand. The Brand—so named because it burns an image into any surface it strikes—fires a massive blast of pyromantic energy from the ship's figurehead, often enough to outright destroy a smaller vessel and cripple a larger one. Its range is limited to about a hundred feet, and after firing it takes hours to recharge the capacitor, but combined with the ship's speed and maneuverability, the Brand should deter attacks by Danor's navy.

THE KING'S BRIDE

By now, all Risurians know of King Oadhan's impending nuptials. The Flint Tribune takes a moment to look at the bride-to-be! An ambitious tiefling in her late 20s, Lya Jierre is the niece of Han Jierre, the Sovereign of Danor (her

father is Han's brother). She graduated top of her class from the prestigious academy of war, the *Jierre Sciens d'Arms*, and many students of other war colleges have read her thesis, *Field Study of Melee Effectiveness and Foe Debilitation through Focused Limb Severance Techniques Contrasted with Mainstream Opportunistic Techniques*, which she wrote near the end of the last Yerasol War. Despite her youth, she was awarded the position of Minister of Outsiders, giving her great leeway to travel and make alliances. For the past three years she has worked with King Aodhan to keep the peace between their two nations, and as they began making plans for a formal alliance, she accepted the king's offer of marriage as a symbolic union.

