

THE FLINT TRIBUNE

SPRING 500 A.O.V.

KING TO ATTEND LAUNCH OF NEW WARSHIP

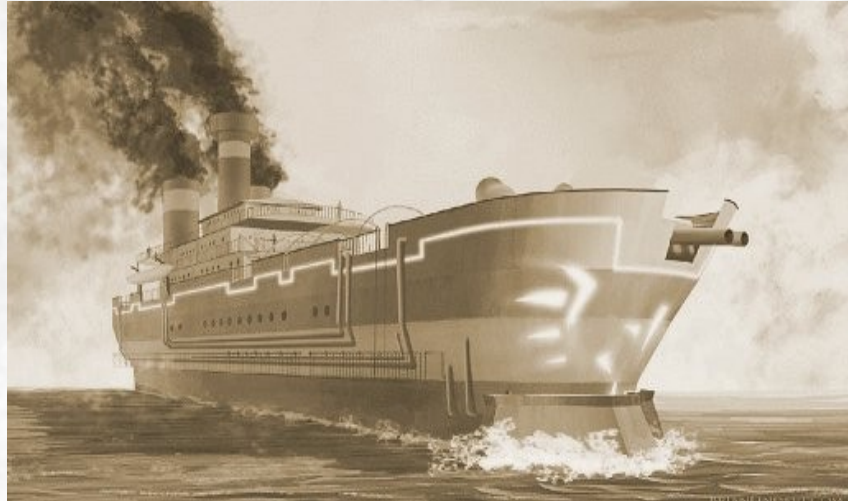
King Aodhan will be attending the launch of the new Risuri warship, RNS Coaltongue, next week. The ship is being launched from Flint Harbour, and is the first Risuri vessel powered solely by steam engine, not sail. It is hoped that the Coaltongue will act as a deterrent against future aggression from the nation of Danor, particularly in regards to Risur's ongoing dispute over the islands of the Yerasol Archipelago. The Royal Homeland Constabulary will be providing security for the event. RHC Inspector Stover Delft has been quoted as saying "We do not anticipate trouble, but current dissatisfaction in the Docker community means that we will be on our guard." Thousands of spectators are expected at Royal Square, although only 700 people will be allowed to traverse the bridge over to Fleet Square.

RAGMAN MURDERS INCREASE

The Ragman has grown more active, and is believed responsible for four deaths over the course of two weeks. Flint police investigate, and an impoverished Yerasol Veteran claims he saw the same pattern of wounds on fellow soldiers in the last war.

PELL'S AUDITIONS

Randall Pell, a renowned composer from Slate, will be conducting the Navras Opera House and plans to hold auditions for performers. This has led to a boom in sales of 'respectable' attire for



amateur Docker musicians, who want to make a good impression.

MONSTERS ON PINE ISLAND

Citizens are warned to avoid the western bayous around the Battalion school in Pine Island. The martial university has imported exotic wild beasts from a Risuri colony in Elfaivar, and will be conducting exercises in beast tracking and monster slaying.

GOODSON SNARED?

Wealthy industrialist and renowned son of Flint Guy Goodson is getting married to a Crisillyiri noblewoman: Faith Unitas. The ceremony will be closed to the public, but reporters are eagerly sharing every detail of the arrangements. The intense interest has journalists excited about all the papers they'll sell when King Aodhan has his marriage early next year.

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.

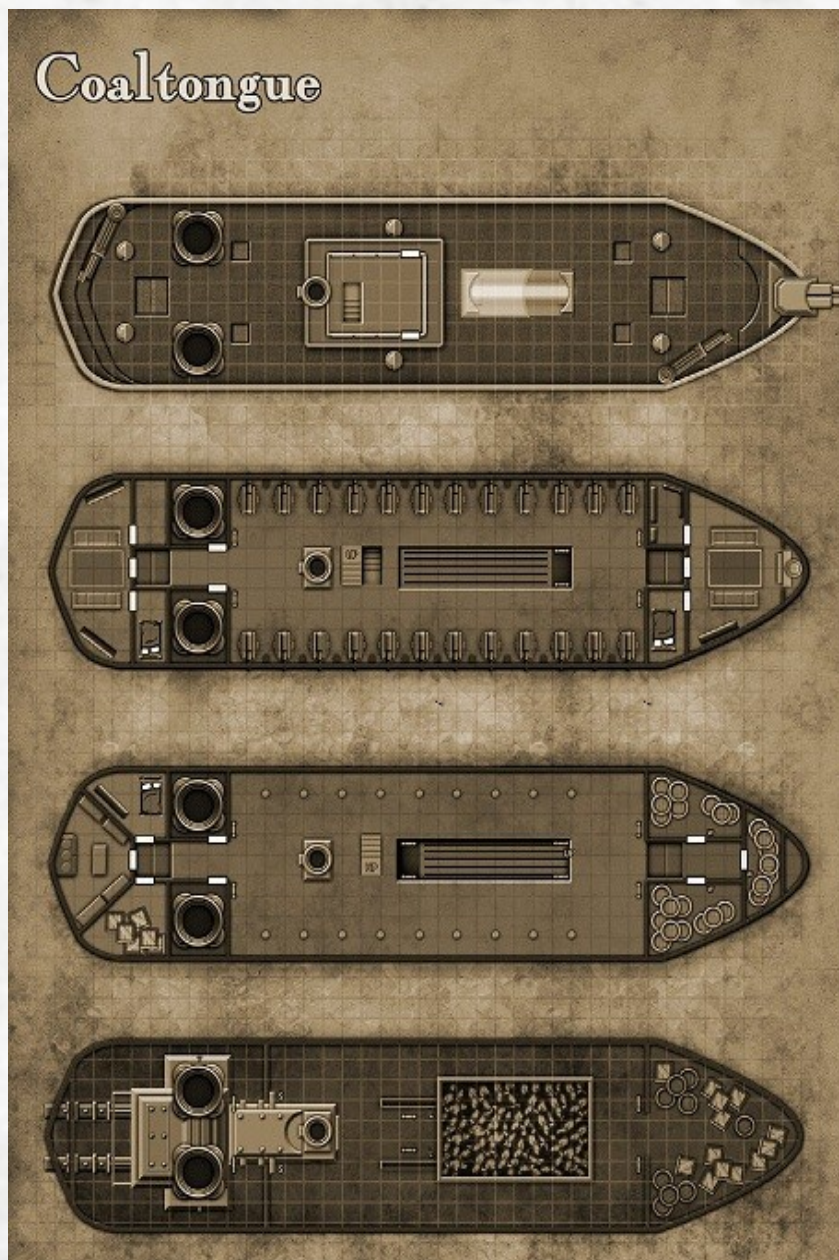
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SPECIAL PROFILE: RNS COALTONGUE

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, 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.