



THE FIRST U.S.S. BENNINGTON

Launched at Chester, Pennsylvania, in June, 1890, and completed a year later. She was a 1,720-ton gunboat with a three-masted schooner rig, her length was 330 feet, beam 36 feet, draught 10½ feet, complement 152, top speed 17½ knots. The gunboat **MOWSIN** had a 4-inch arc-mounted deck. She fired six 4-inch guns, four 6-pounders, four 1-pounders and four Colt machine guns. She was built at a cost of \$400,884.

The original DEMINGTON took possession of Wake Island for the U. S. in 1899. Her name with-

ported General Arthur MacArthur, father of General Douglas MacArthur, during the Philippine Insurrection.

Back from the China Station, the gunboat provisioned and coaled at San Diego. As she was getting up steam one of her boilers exploded, killing most of those aboard. Crew members who were victims of this accident are buried above Ballast Point, San Diego.

After almost twenty years of distinguished service she was decommissioned September, 1920.

