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"QUEEN ELIZABETH" GETS RE-FIT

The ocean's mightiest giant, the "Queen Elizabeth" rests in the King George the Fifth graving dock at Southampton for her annual overhaul. On deck, mile upon mile of hammers and ropes have to be cleaned before the ship leaves port again in twenty-nine days. More than eight tons of paint will be used to make the eighty-three-and-a-half-thousand ton liner look spick and span.

Altogether six-hundred men of a variety of trades are engaged in the overhaul of the passenger accommodation alone. Beating, sweeping, dusting, polishing, this small army invades the thirteen decks. Thirty-seven public rooms and hundreds of state rooms have to be stripped of all furnishings and carpets, which are taken ashore to be cleaned or renewed. So far nobody has dared to calculate the amount of elbow grease that goes into the liner's refitment. Like everything else about the "Queen Elizabeth" it's certain to be enormous.

While 40,000 pieces of plate are checked up above, the engine-room personnel get down to an early spring-clean. Every inch of the 160,000 horse-power propelling machinery is inspected - so is the maze of companion ways - and the enormous electrical plant that is sufficient to light a town the size of Canterbury.

Now the main turbines come in for attention - and that means plenty of work. 257,000 blades have all to be critically examined. Tackle has to be rigged to remove the four huge thirty-two ton propellers. To swing them free from their shafts, fifty-ton cranes are employed. But quality counts as much as quantity, and perfection is the aim of all who re-fit the mighty ocean "Queen" for Coronation year.

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