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MAXFLOWER LAUNCHED.

Pouring rain can't spoil the great day at a Brixham shipyard when Mayflower the Second is to be launched. Guest of honour is Reis Leving, American hero of the Norfolk floods of 1953, who has come from Washington to name her. The men who started it all - Warwick Charlton and John Loew watch the unusual christening ceremony. No bottle of champagne here - Reis Leving drinks sack from a golden goblet which he passes to Stuart Upham, builder of the ship. This replica of the Pilgrim Father's famous vessel, will sail for America next spring. The wedges are driven in, the traditional launching shanty.

Mayflower still has to be fitted and rigged, but the most difficult part of this careful reconstruction of a 17th-century ship has been triumphantly completed. British ports will be seeing her during her trials, before she leaves on her great Atlantic adventure.