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NEWS IN BRIEF.

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Picture.:- The giant liner 'Queen Mary' prepares for her first trip. Smoke from her funnels indicates engine testing. These tests have been completely successful. In about two months they will receive receive further tests when the great ship runs

her trials. Divers are at work removing unnecessary underwater structures. 160 concrete blocks of 20-tons each are anchored in deep mud beneath the keel, and must be removed to give the ship

clear keel room. Finishing touches

are being put on by a few hundreds pots of

paint, and a few hundred painters. Hundreds of women are polishing the wood-work. A deep

channel is being kept clear by dredgers. The 'Queen Mary's' first trip to sea will make ocean history.

(R)

Picture.:- The vexed question of floods has cropped up again. The rivers of the country are sadly misbehaving themselves, and appeals to the Clerk of the Weather are answered by something wetter than a wet blanket. The River Medway is a bad offender. It would require a diver to cycle on that tow path, but even in the suppressed areas, one sometimes encounters the spirit of splendid optimism.

At Walton, the water has risen

17-inches in three days. Some villages are again isolated, but a great big brute like that takes a chance, and gets away with it.

Sunset turns