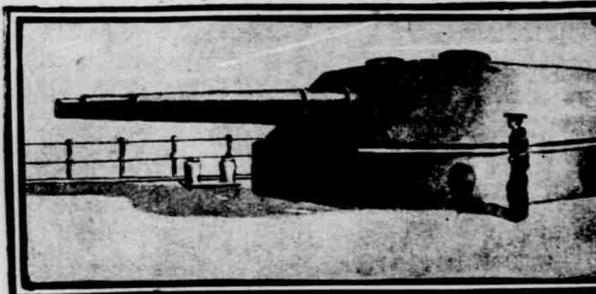


"MISSOURI," Mightiest Monarch of the Fighting Kings of the United States Navy, IS 40 PER CENT COMPLETE.

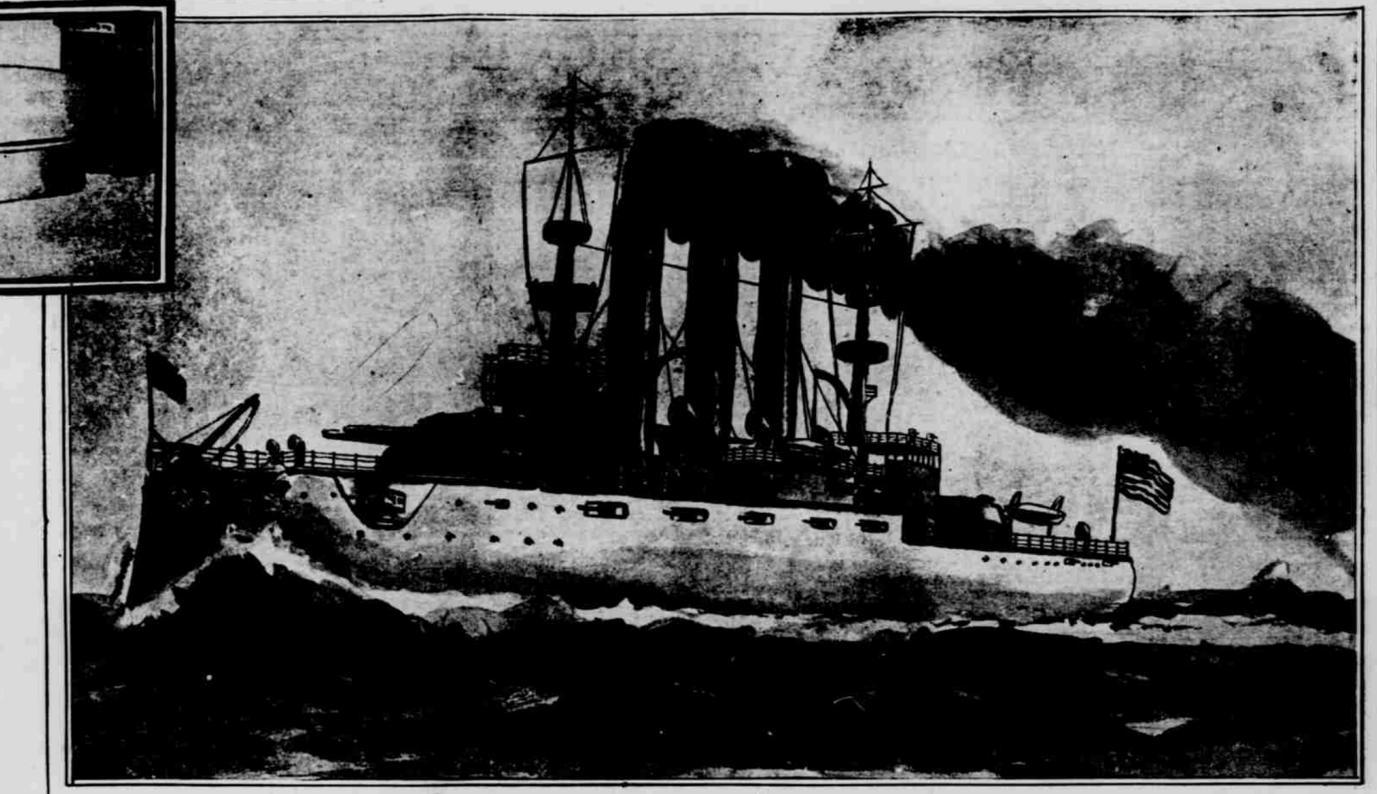


ONE OF THE GREAT TURRETS OF THE MISSOURI. Containing two twelve-inch guns.

In Speed, Displacement and Offensive and Defensive Equipment She Is Expected to Excel Any Other Vessel Carrying Uncle Sam's Colors, and to Be More Than a Match for Any Ship in World.

Special Correspondence of The Sunday Republic. Newport News, Va., June 18.—High upon her stocks in the yard of the Newport News Ship Building and Dry Dock Company in this city is the mighty battleship Missouri, one of the many men-of-war now building for the United States Navy. The ship is a worthy namesake of a great State. The building of the ship is not yet near completion, and it will be several months before she is even launched, but work on her is progressing rapidly, and in due time she will be afloat on the high seas with the Stars and Stripes flying from her flagstaff. To those who have never had the opportunity of observing the building of a ship like the Missouri, it is difficult to understand the magnitude of the undertaking—the extensive preparation for it, the vast quantity of material required, the amount of work necessary to construct the ship, and—another small item—the cost. The work is worth going miles to see. At times there are as many as 600 or 800 men at work on the vessel at once, all as busy as bees, besides many more at work on different pieces of the ship in different parts of the yard. On the vessel the work of the sledgehammer and cold-chisel, mingled with the constant rattling of other tools and building material, creates a continuous jarring buzz, which makes it impossible to hear any but the loudest conversation. At this stage of the building of the ship nothing but steel has been used. And, indeed, but very little wood will go into her. The most of it will be used for decking and in fitting up quarters for officers and crew, and will be thoroughly fireproofed. The Missouri is a sister ship of the Maine, now building at the yards of the Union Iron Works in San Francisco. The Missouri Cramp & Sons Ship, and Engine Building Company in Philadelphia, and of the Ohio, now building at the yards of the Union Iron Works in San Francisco. The hull of the Missouri is built of steel and is unheated. It is 388 feet long on the load-water line; is 72 feet 2 1/2 inches in breadth, and at a mean draft of 23 feet 6 inches displaces 13,220 tons. The hull is protected abreast of the boilers and engines by a side armor belt, extending 3 feet 6 inches above the load-water line and 4 feet below, having a thickness of 11 inches for a depth of 4 feet 4 inches, tapering to 7 1/2 inches at the bottom of the belt, and by the casemate armor 6 inches thick, which extends from the side belt to the upper deck. At the ends of this casemate armor, diagonal armor 9 inches thick extends from the sides of the vessel to the barbette armor. In the casemate thus formed are placed ten 6-inch guns. Above this on the upper deck, four 6-inch guns are placed, in the vicinity of which 6-inch armor is worked far enough forward and aft to afford protection to the crews of these guns. Protection is afforded the vitals of the ship below the water line by a protective deck. Cofferdams are built in the protective deck from the diagonal armor bulkheads to the bow and stern in the vicinity of the water line, and on the berth deck for nearly the length of the vessel. All of these cofferdams are filled with corn-cob cellulose, a substance which expands and becomes hard when it comes in contact with water, so that water rushing in through a shot hole will be stopped by the cellulose coming together. The main battery of the Missouri consists of four 12-inch breech-loading rifles, placed in two balanced turrets, fore and aft, and sixteen 6-inch, rapid-fire guns. The secondary battery consists of six 3-inch rapid-fire guns, eight 6-pounder, rapid-fire; six 1-pounder rapid-fire; two Colts, and two 2-inch rapid-fire field guns. Altogether, quite a formidable battery. The turrets containing the 12-inch guns are turned by electricity. The motors used for this purpose can revolve one of these great turrets through 360 degrees in one minute. The armor of both the turrets and barbettes is 12 inches thick. Ten of the 6-inch guns are within the casemate, two others are on the berth forward in 4-inch armored sponsons, and four are on the upper deck. Through the arrangement of the guns the ship can train many of them in one direction, or some of them in all directions. A new feature introduced in the offensive power of this ship is the submerged torpedo tube. While these are not new abroad, German warships having been equipped with them for a number of years, the Missouri and her class are the first battleships of our navy to be supplied with them. Many vessels of the United States Navy are fitted with torpedo tubes above the water line. These tubes, above water or submerged, cannot discharge torpedoes accurately for any great distance, and they cannot be relied upon for any but close fighting. The Missouri will have two tubes, both submerged, one on each side of the vessel situated about fifty feet from the bow and about ten feet six inches below the water line.

The magazine and shellrooms of the ship can stow 240 rounds of 12-inch ammunition, 3,200 rounds of 6-inch ammunition, 9,600 rounds of 6-pounder and 4,900 rounds of 1-pounder. There are two masts, fitted with the usual signal yards, tops and topmasts. The foremast is located in the usual way over the forward conning tower, the place occupied by the commanding officer during an engagement, the foundation of the tower forming the lower part of the mast. The armor of the forward conning-tower is 10 inches thick, and that of the after or signal tower 6. A steel tube, 12 inches in diameter inside and 7 inches in thickness, extends from the forward conning tower down to the protective deck, and protects the voice tubes, and telegraphs from the command-officer to the important stations of the vessel. The Missouri carries fourteen boats, of which one is a forty-foot steam cutter, and another a thirty-six-foot steam cutter of the usual navy type. The boats are handled by four cranes, all operated by steam. The engines for this purpose being located on the working platforms of the cranes. Bilge keels to reduce rolling are fitted to the vessel. Hydraulic gear is used in steering, and can put the rudder from hard aport to hard starboard in twenty seconds when the vessel is moving at full speed. The electricity, both for lighting the vessel and operating the turrets and hoists and for minor purposes, is furnished by eight thirty-two kilowatt generating sets. There are four dynamo rooms. Four powerful searchlights, two of which are placed on the top of the pilot-house and two on the mainmast above the upper bridge, will give warning of the approach of hostile vessels, and for night signaling the ship carries two sets of electric signaling apparatus. The normal coal supply of the Missouri is 1,000 tons, and the capacity of her bunkers is 2,000 tons. As in other ships of her type, the arrangement of the bunkers is such as to afford considerable incidental protection to the machinery. The Missouri and her class are the first battleships of the United States Navy in which water tube boilers are provided, they being placed in four watertight compartments. There are large horizontal and two vertical cylinders, direct-acting triple expansion type, having four cylinders. The collective indicated horse-power of the main engines is about 16,000 when the vessel is making a speed of eighteen knots—about twenty and three-quarter miles-an-hour. A refrigerating room on the berth deck forward furnishes cold storage, and the



THE MISSOURI AS SHE WILL APPEAR WHEN IN COMMISSION.

ship is supplied with an ice machine of the dense air type that can produce the cooling effect of two tons of ice per day. The windlass, which is of the most modern pattern, is operated by steam, and can raise both the bow anchors at once. It is housed in an inclosure just forward of the forward barbette. The construction of the Missouri and her class was authorized by Congress on May 4, 1898, when the Spanish War demonstrated the wisdom of a much greater increase in the navy. The keel of the Missouri was laid on February 7, 1899, and the contract price of hull and machinery is \$2,850,000. Her complement is thirty-five officers and 511 men. But for various delays to the work, which her builders cannot be charged, the ship would now be much nearer completion. She is now 40 per cent complete. While of course it is possible to build larger and swifter ships than the Missouri, it would seem that the naval architects have about reached in her and her class the limit of the development of their art. She is about as complete a fighter as it is possible to construct in this day and generation. Battleships designed since the Missouri, the Georgia and her class and the Virginia and her class, are somewhat larger and swifter, but quite similar in design. Ever since the commencement of the building of the new navy about twenty

years ago, the tendency of the Government has been to increase the size, speed and fighting abilities of its men-of-war. Here, too, are building the battleship Illinois and the monitor Arkansas, the former almost complete. She had her official trial trip off the coast of Massachusetts on the 12th of the present month. The Missouri is about 1,000 tons heavier and two knots faster than the Illinois. The Illinois' four big guns are 12-inchers, or one inch larger than Missouri's, although the Missouri's are probably equally as powerful. Besides the naval vessels now building, there are to be built, the battleships Kearsarge and Kentucky and the gunboats Helena, Nashville and Wilmington were built here. Some individual with lots of time and a proclivity for figuring has estimated that it takes time equal to that of 961 men for 91 days, working ten hours a day, to build such a ship as the Missouri. This calculation takes account of the work done by everybody having anything to do with the construction of the ship, from the chief naval constructor to the man that goes into the cutting dig the ore to be converted into the steel used. Thus it will be seen that it would take one man \$23,321 days, or 3,073 years, to build it, supposing that he worked 300 days a year, which would be a very good average when Sundays, holidays and an allowance for sickness are deducted. At \$25 a day, an estimated average wage for

those engaged in the work, this lone builder would earn \$2,724,354.50. The yard of the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company is one of the largest and perhaps the most complete shipbuilding plants in the world, not excepting those great yards which line the banks of the Clyde and the Tyne. Eight thousand men are at work in this yard. Here, too, is the largest drydock, save perhaps one, in the world. It was completed a few weeks ago. So large is it that three vessels entered it at once when it was put into commission. Here, too, are building the steamships Korea and Siberia, two mammoth ships for the Pacific Mail Steamship Company. The Korea was launched in March, and the Siberia shortly will be put overboard. Up to the time that the keels for these ships were laid they were the largest liners ever projected in this country. When the Missouri is launched some time in the coming fall it will be up to the Governor to select some pretty Missouri girl for the distinguished honor and pleasant task of christening the ship. And it will be in order for the Governor, with his staff and invited guests, to celebrate the occasion, to journey to the coast to see the vessel slide into the waters of the James. They can have Newport News for the day. D. BRUCE SALLEY.

shear for a few years, getting all the way from \$60 to \$70 or more a season, and then invest their savings in stock of their own. Shearing Sheep by Machinery. At present there are millions of sheep shorn every year by machinery. The sheep-shearing machines are run by steam, compressed air and electricity. The force is communicated, through a flexible tube like that of the camel, to a little more than 100 clips like those used by the barbers in cutting your hair. The clips consist of little knives which move backward and forward over each other like those of a pocket watch. They go at the rate of 4,000 movements per minute, cutting through the wool as a hot knife cuts through butter and taking it off so smoothly and cleanly that by hand. I have seen sheep shorn in this way so that their skins were as smooth as the nap of fine cloth, the soft running away clad in a velvety coat of wool. 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