

Powers Depend On Battleships

Monster Fighting Vessels Made Less Vulnerable To Air Attacks.

WASHINGTON.—Despite the new factor of air power in naval warfare, battleships still are believed to be the backbone of the navy in every "big navy" country of the world. A survey shows that although Great Britain has the largest navy, her shipyards are working night and day to increase the number of her capital ships by about 50 per cent. The same is true of France, except that France seeks to add even more, about 90 per cent.

Italy's shipyards are found to be working to double the number of her battleships. The German navy seeks to add about half again as many as that country now has.

Less Vulnerable to Attacks.
The great strides that have been made in recent years to make such ships less vulnerable to attacks from the air are believed a prime reason for this situation. Rear Admiral William C. Watts, new commandant of the Great Lakes Naval Training station, asserts.

This surge of reliance on the largest of the fighting ships is even more significant when the rising cost of these great floating fortresses is considered.

According to Capt. Jonas Ingram of the United States navy, "Of all combatant ships the battleship is the only one designed to stay and 'take it.' Nothing else is tough enough." For that reason, battleships must keep pace with the increasing effectiveness of shellfire and aerial bombs. Regardless of cost they must have such heavy armor and so many separate watertight compartments that they are virtually unsinkable.

Cost Mounting Steadily.
The battleships the United States is building today each cost 16 times as much as the American battleships built 30 years ago, and the cost is steadily mounting. The total tonnage of the latest type of American battleship under construction is 45,000 tons. Its main batteries will carry 16-inch guns, and its anti-aircraft guns have been upped in caliber from three inches to five inches.

It has been predicted by military authorities that naval action would probably decide a war in which Germany and Italy opposed Britain, France, and Poland.

To total tonnage the side of the British and French empires is overwhelmingly superior to the dictator powers. Britain's giant armada totals 2,679,863 tons and France, with the second largest navy in Europe, has 1,150,000 tons. The tiny Finnish navy is reported to amount to 18,500 tons, or one-third the tonnage of a single modern battleship.

The Italian navy ranks third in Europe with 717,920 tons. Germany, which has had a short time to rebuild the navy she lost after the World war, has 541,623 tons. Thus the empire powers have almost a 3 to 1 superiority over the dictator powers in tonnage. Even if Russia should add her 290,583 tons to the German-Italian side, the Britain-France combination would be superior by nearly two to one.

Youthful Art Is Good, Asserts Head of Museum

PITTSBURGH.—The youth of America is turning out some pretty good art these days, according to Dr. Audrey Avisoff, art connoisseur and director of the Carnegie museum.

Dr. Avisoff has been studying art produced by high school students for several years. He's a member of the jury which judges the annual exhibition of art by secondary school students sponsored by a national magazine.

"I began to notice these young people sometimes produce work that approached remarkable perfection," he said. "Some have a precocious ability in the handling of the material, comparable in many ways with professional artists."

"America," he said, "has produced more fine art by its youth than any other country in the world. It is a fountain of youth, a brilliant outburst of talent. These American young people have extraordinary ability."

The Russian-born scientist practices what he preaches. He already has purchased 40 paintings, prints and drawings for his private collection of American art by adolescent youth.

'The Old Maid' Is Newest Dance Step

NEW YORK.—They call it "The Old Maid," but it's really the willow dance. It's a dance introduced at the national convention of the Dancing Masters of America here recently. "The Old Maid" allows an unexpected girl to cut in on a dancing couple. The three continue to dance together, the man in the middle with his arms around the waists of the two girls. The three take their steps in the same direction—something like a chorus line.

PINCH OF COAL DUST CAN BE THE CAUSE OF A MINE EXPLOSION

Washington.—A pinch of coal dust that could be held between the thumb and forefinger could start an explosion which would claim lives of thousands of men, the Bureau of Mines declared the other day. It explained the dust—much less would fit into the bowl of a well-caked briar pipe—mixed with a cubic foot of air—about a bucket full—will form an inflammable mixture.

"To explode," the bureau said in a report on collection of dust in coal mines, "coal dust must be mixed with air in a comparatively dense cloud."

"The coal dust-air mixture, when in contact with an open flame, ignites with a violence proportional to the volatile combustible matter in the coal as well as in proportion to coal fineness, dryness and freedom from impurities. Although there must be a dense cloud at the point of ignition there need not be any considerable quantity of dust by weight or volume to bring about a dust ignition and explosion."

"By experiment it has been found that a dust cloud of comparatively pure, fairly high voltage, finely divided bituminous coal is the amount of one-fourth of an ounce of coal dust per cubic foot of air is about the least dense coal dust cloud that will propagate or extend an explosion. This is less than two ounces of coal dust to the linear foot of ordinary coal mine entry. There are few of any coal mine entries, rooms or pillar workings in which there is not present several times this amount of dust."

The bureau's report held that mechanization of mines had increased dust in loading and ruting operation but on the other hand has resulted in decreased accumulations of dust in cutting and loading operation but on the other hand has resulted in decreased accumulations of dust in the haulage ways.

"Unquestionably the most consistent and the most prolific producer of dust in coal mining today is mechanized methods of loading."

"Hauling produces and disseminates considerable dust, but the quantity ordinarily is not as great as five per cent of that produced by most types of machine loading or undercutting or overcutting generally hauling by mule or horse produces greater air dustness than does hauling by either locomotive or rope."

The bureau, which has reiterated for years that rock dusting or astringent practices should be used to allay dust, concluded its study with the statement that both methods should be used for full effectiveness.

"Watering methods alone have failed in the preventing of widespread disasters in the mines of the United States chiefly because of neglect to keep them in full effect at all times. "Rock dusting also has failed in some instances, even in mines that have done more than ordinarily well rock dusted where the work has been done inadequately in some places or not kept in effect in some places or under some conditions."

"Hence neither rock dusting nor watering alone will prevent mine explosions. However experience in the United States indicates that a combination of the two unquestionably gives the best protection now known against the occurrence of widespread explosion disasters."

TALK ON YOUR HEALTH

Some Sound Advice by Medical Association on Heart Murmurs in Small Children.

Heart murmurs in children, when reported, often give parents an agonizing pain in their hearts.

A large percentage of so-called heart murmurs are of no special significance.

Many are of only minor importance. But a comparatively few are serious. Heart murmurs in children occur for various reasons.

There are cases in which the heart is abnormal.

These abnormalities are present from birth and are known as congenital heart disease.

Heart murmurs occur not infrequently in children who have had rheumatic fever or St. Vitus dance.

Rheumatic fever may result in what is known to the lay public as a "leaky heart valve."

Doctors call it rheumatic heart disease.

Ninety-three per cent of all cases of actual, organic heart disease in persons under 20 years of age in New England are of this type—rheumatic heart disease should be particularly guarded against coils or other infections.

When a child is said to have heart murmur, he should be examined by the family doctor to determine the importance of the clinical history and the condition of the heart.

Many people with heart murmurs live to happy old age after full, active lives.

Heart murmurs in children should be viewed soberly but treated so as to give the child the minimum handicap.

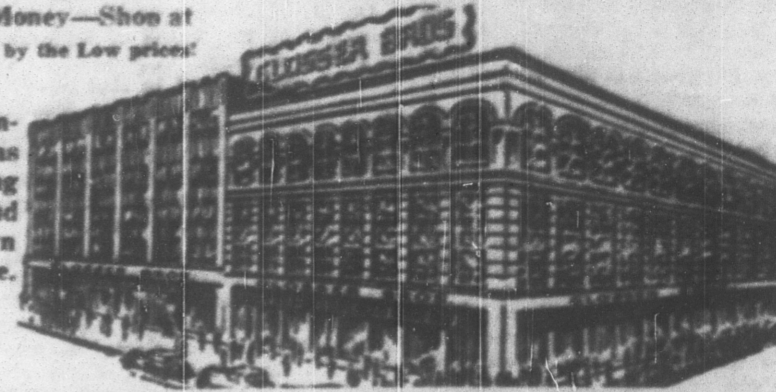
DO YOU KNOW?
Finland is much concerned over the great number of gutter cases in that country, in some cases as many as ten per cent of the young men of military age presenting enlargement of the thyroid gland. This condition is usually five times as frequent among women as among men.

Equal parts of ammonia and turpentine will remove soluble ink marks.

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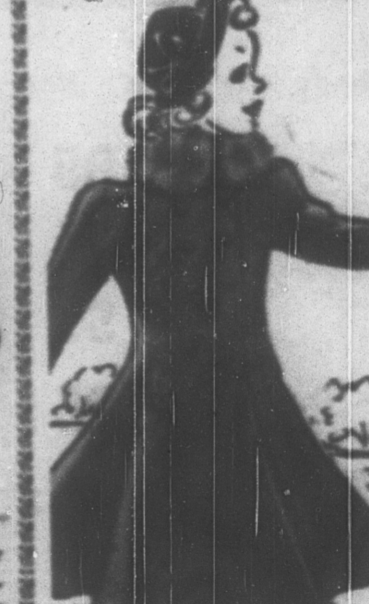
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