

WHAT COULD OUR NAVY DO IF—?

THE UNITED STATES FLEET AS COMPARED WITH THAT OF OTHER NATIONS



20-pound projectile, 16 inches of Krupp armor; the seven-inch 16-pound projectile, six inches of Krupp armor; the six-inch 100-pound projectile, four inches of Krupp armor.

So much for the aggregate firing strength of the new United States Navy. Now for the detailed strength.

Much of the "paper power" of navies will be altered by the lessons to be learned from that first great sea battle between modern steel ships that was fought in the Sea of Japan. All other previous modern fights, including the fights of the American ships in the Spanish-American War, were mere engagements compared with that.

Many so-called "lessons" will be laid before the world in haste; but the real lessons will not be demonstrable for a long time to come, perhaps a year. Elements of wind, atmosphere and sea; elements of personnel and strategy; elements of ammunition and armor will all have to be weighed minutely and reduced to their proper relative values before the naval experts will be able to speak with some measure of authority.

These are the great questions that will be answered then—answers which every naval power awaits with keen anxiety.

Were the armored ships—battleships or the great armored cruisers, themselves essentially battleships—the determining factors? Was it swiftness of gunfire or weight of individual projectiles? Was it swiftness of engines or thickness of protective armor? Did

A LITTLE more than 100 years ago, the United States frigate Constitution, then one of the finest fighting craft of the world, held the seas with a battery of 32 24-pounders on her main deck and 22 smaller guns as her secondary armament. By discharging her entire ordnance simultaneously she could have thrown 1401 pounds of castiron.

Today the New Hampshire type of battleship carries 74 guns and could throw 7250 pounds of chilled steel in one discharge of her main battery alone. A single broadside will send our 3690 pounds—more than a ton and a half of metal with an energy of more than 73,000 foot tons. And the six battleships of that class which are building now are designed to fire such broadsides as fast as they can belt them forth in action.

10-inch guns in their main battery, an armament hitherto unapproached.

Of the 14 great new battleships, 7 are more than half finished. The other four are from 5 to 40 per cent finished.

Of the armored cruisers, all except two are practically ready to use.

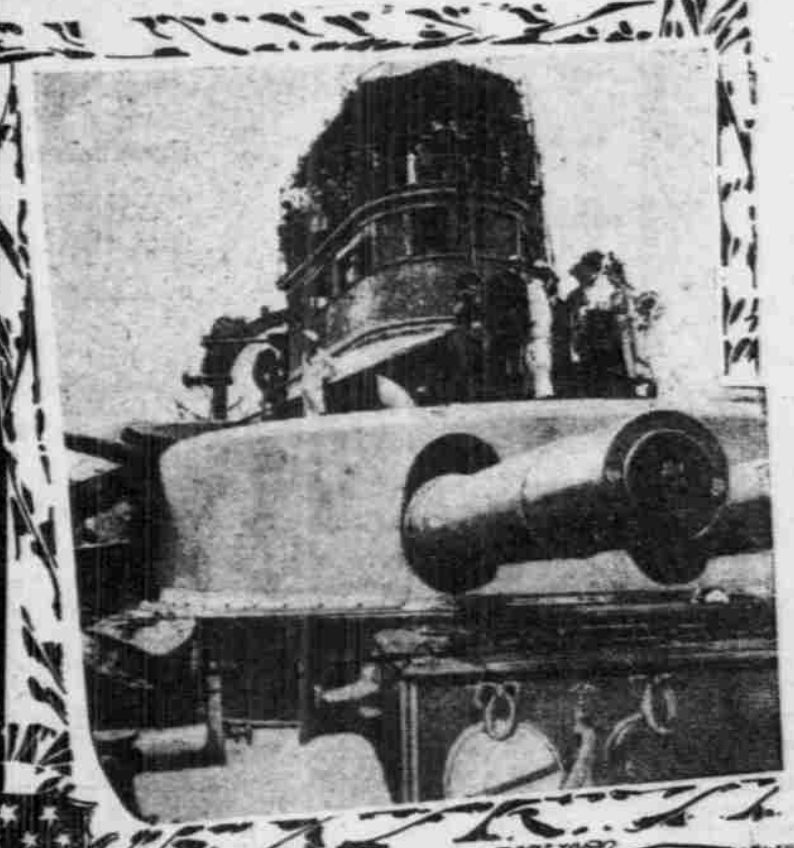
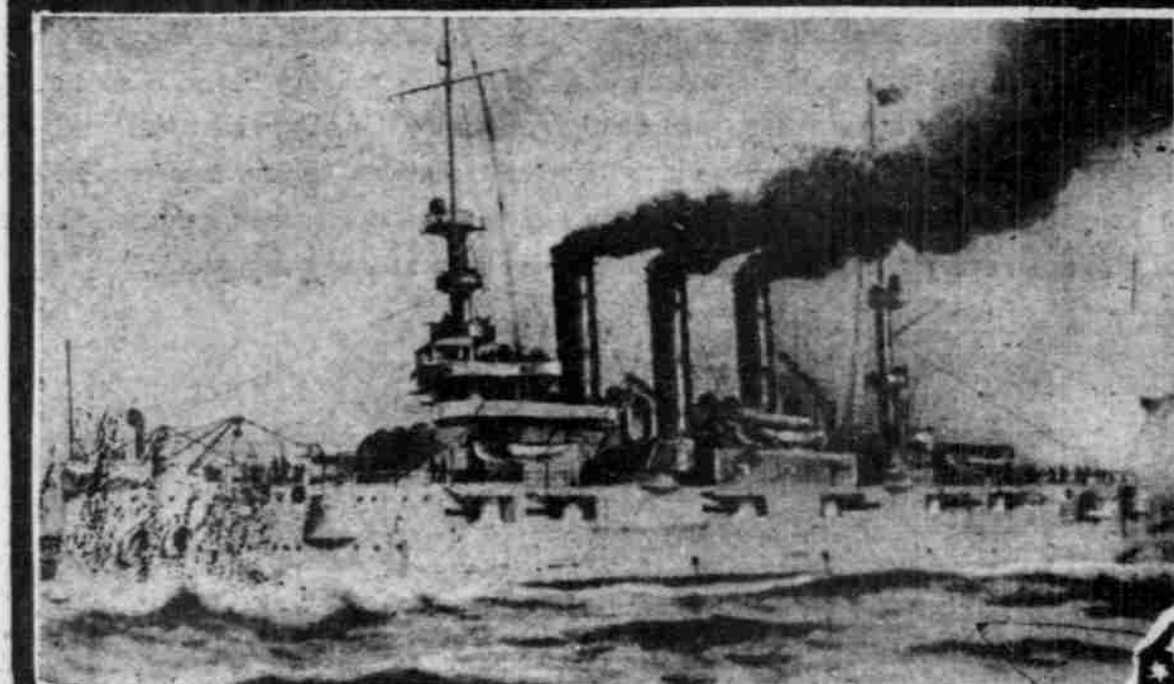
Fleet Quadrupled in Seven Years.

So this is how the real Navy of the United States, all of which will be afloat and ready for action within three years and most of which will be finished within less than two years, will compare with the Navy of the Spanish-American War. In actual fighting ships the American Navy has been more than quadrupled within seven years.

	1898	1905
Battleships, first class	4	20
Battleships, second class	1	12
Armored cruisers	13	20
Protected cruisers	2	3
Light cruisers	0	3
Boat cruisers	0	3
Gunboats	15	44
Torpedo-boat destroyers	0	45
Torpedo-boats and submarines	6	44

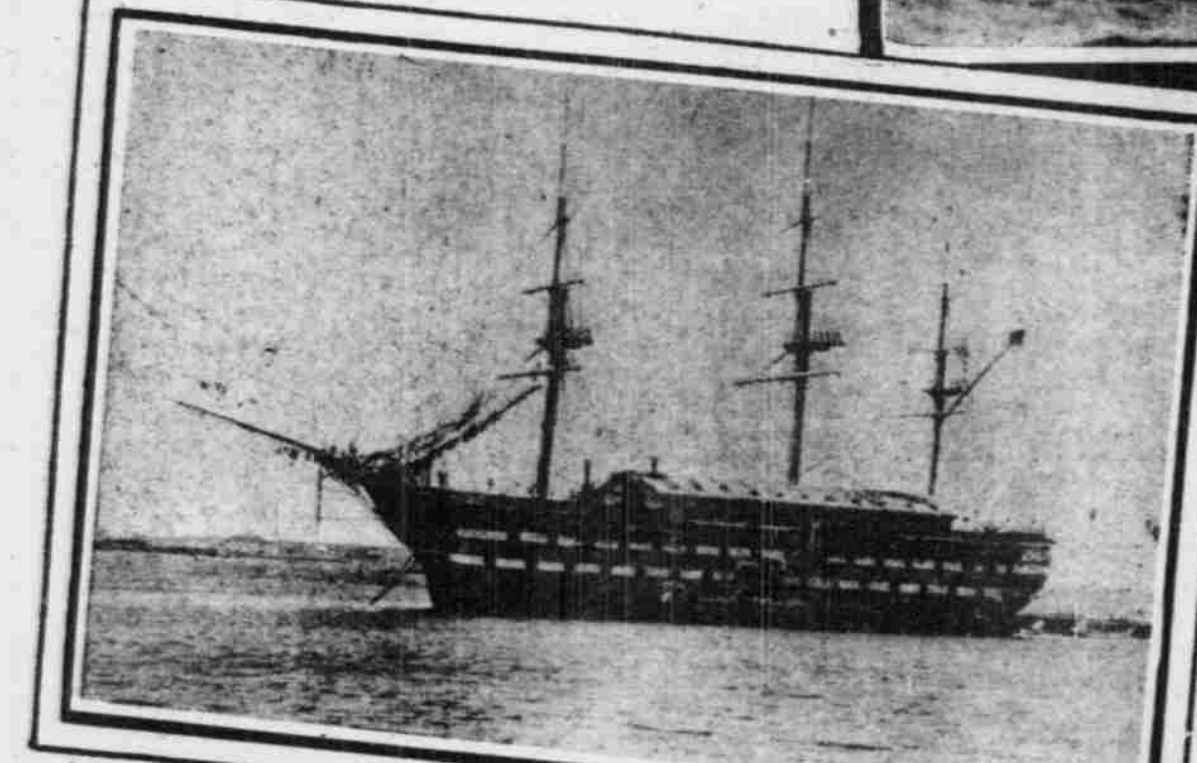
American Gun Power.

This Navy will carry 143 great guns in its main batteries—cast-steel rifled breech-loading cannon, any single one of which



In February, 1898, the United States had afloat in commission:

- 4 first-class sea-going battleships
- 1 second-class turret sea-going battleship
- 2 armored cruisers
- 12 protected cruisers



THE NEW VERMONT. THERE WILL BE SIX SHIPS OF THIS TYPE. THE MOST POWERFUL BATTLESHIP CLASS IN THE WORLD. THE OTHER SHIPS ARE NEW HAMPSHIRE, CONNECTICUT, LOUISIANA, KANSAS AND MINNESOTA.

THE OLD VERMONT TRIGATE BUILT IN BOSTON IN 1818. NOW PROPOSED TO BE USED AS A RECEIVING SHIP.

3 unprotected cruisers.
15 gunboats.
4 steel double-turret monitors.
1 dynamite cruiser.
1 ram.
6 torpedo-boats.

This fleet was augmented by the hurried conversion of purchased vessels, mostly mercantile, when the Spanish-American War began. But the real navy was as given.

Fit for Fight Today.

Today the United States Navy, afloat and fit for immediate service, is:

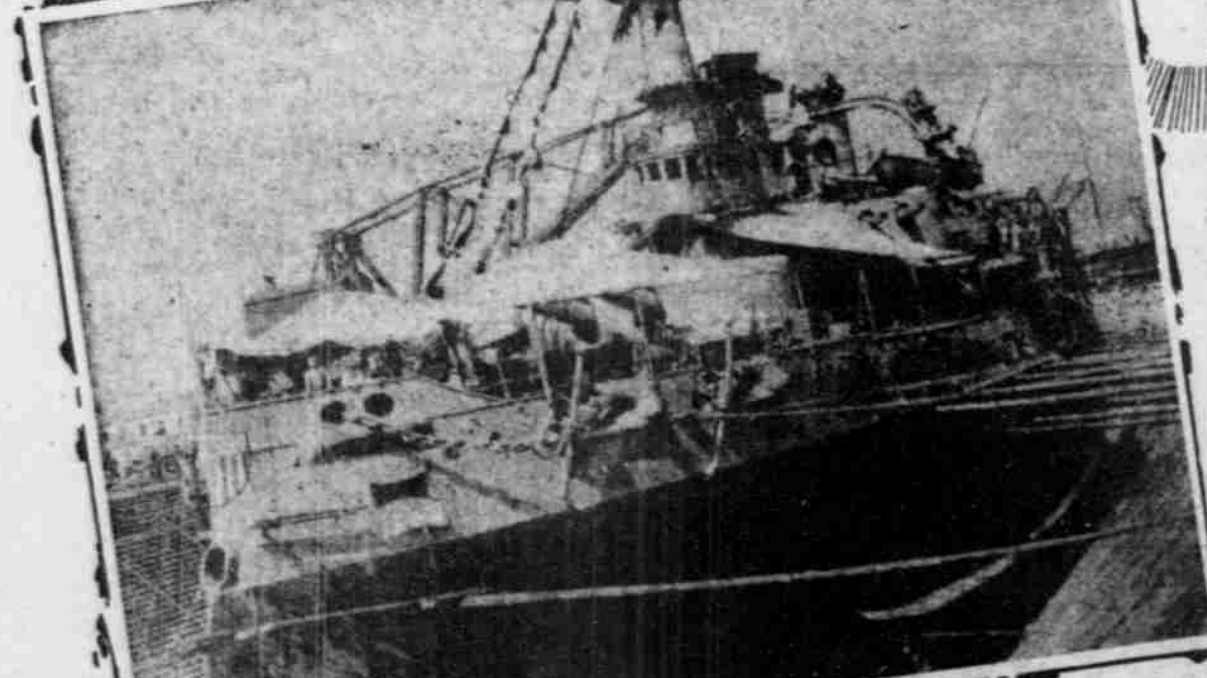
- 11 first-class sea-going coast-line battleships
- 1 second-class turret sea-going battleship
- 2 armored cruisers
- 18 protected cruisers
- 3 unprotected cruisers
- 12 gunboats
- 8 composite gunboats
- 3 light-draught gunboats
- 21 gunboats under 200 tons
- 4 steel double-turret monitors
- 1 dynamite cruiser
- 1 armored ram
- 16 torpedo-boat destroyers
- 8 steel torpedo-boats
- 8 submarines
- 1 wooden torpedo-boat
- 16 colliers
- 14 supply and hospital ships

Besides these, there are 97 auxiliary cruisers, converted yachts, armed and unarmed tugs, training-ships and sailing vessels, bringing the total of ships of all kinds to 258.

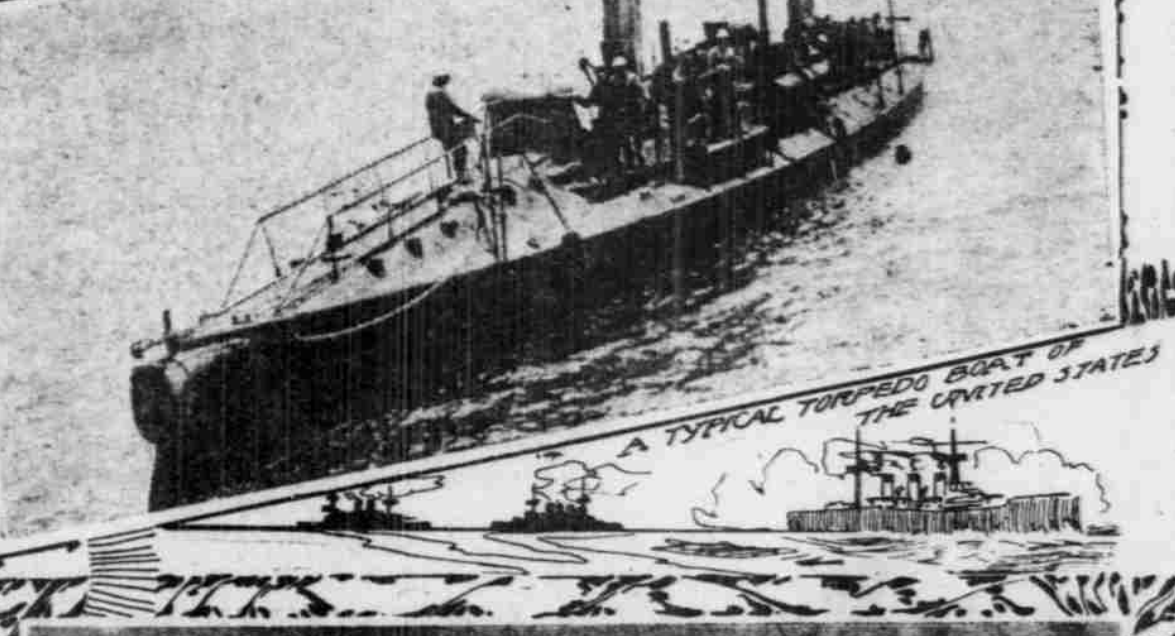
The Fleet in Being.

There are building now:

- 14 first-class sea-going coast-line battleships
- 10 armored cruisers
- 6 protected cruisers
- 2 boat cruisers
- 2 composite gunboats
- 6 steel torpedo-boats
- 2 training ships
- 1 training brig
- 2 colliers
- 2 tugs



THE OREGON IN BROOKLYN NAVY YARD DRY DOCK. THE FOUR GUNS SEEN PROTRUDING FROM THE TURRETS ARE IN HER MAIN BATTERY. THE FORWARD ONES ARE 13-IN. THE OTHER GUN



A TYPICAL TORPEDO BOAT OF THE UNITED STATES.



KEEPING THE MEN IN PHYSICAL CONDITION ON A BATTLESHIP.

In addition to all these will come two mighty battleships of the first class, the Michigan and the South Carolina, authorized by the last Congress, and required under the law to be "superior to any now afloat." The plans for these are still to be finally drawn. It is possible that they will carry 12 and

would have been able to put the biggest 44-gun frigate of the 19th century out of action.

The 143 great guns are made up as follows:

- 20 13-inch rifles, 89 12-inch rifles and 42 10-inch rifles mounted in turrets; 136 eight-inch rifles, 85 seven-inch rifles, 466 six-inch rifles, 180 five-inch rifles, 152 four-inch rifles and 177 three-inch rifles, mounted both in turrets and behind steel armor.

They run for into the thousands in number—enough to destroy the biggest

standing army in the world if their fire could be concentrated on it.

The combined weight of these guns

themselves is 12,168 tons—that is, the guns alone of our modern Navy amount to almost as much as the entire tonnage of all the ships that the Navy was able to put into commission at the beginning of the War of 1812. They had a combined tonnage of only 13,300, and the total number of their guns was 42.

From the beautiful slender bore of the 143 there could be hurled in one single blast exactly 287,877 pounds of pointed

cast-steel projectiles—115.5 tons to blast the sea.

They don't look it. Except in length, the chocolate-brown things are far less imposing than the old savage guns of the smooth-bore days. They are too pretty, too dainty to inspire the awe with which people used to look at a frigate, whose sides were terrible with gaping black muzzles.

But if those dainty guns open up on an

armored ship 200 yards, or almost three land miles off, which is nearly 10 times the fighting range of the old frigates, that usually engaged within hailing distance, and almost five times the ordinary ranges of the Civil War navies, their conical projectiles, striking fair and full against the face of the armor, should smash as follows:

The 13-inch 160-pound projectile, 16 inches of Krupp armor; the eight-inch

the torpedo-boats play a decisive part. What did the submarines do? Now how would our new and great Navy stand in power in the face of any of these answers?

If swiftness of gunfire turns out to have crushed the Russians, we are safe. In 18 recorded minutes during the naval battle of Santiago, one gun on

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