

AGED BATTLESHIPS.

THEIR FATE WHEN TOO FAR
GONE TO BE OF SERVICE.

Small Sums Realized Upon Great
Vessels That Have Cost
Fortunes to Build—
Their Lifetime.

What is done with those warships which, becoming obsolete, have to be "disposed of at alarming sacrifices," is one of those questions few ordinary persons could answer, says London Tit-Bits. Of course, the most profitable way would be to sell them to foreign countries, such as the South American republics, and Turkey, Spain and China might even be occasional customers.

But for obvious political reasons such a thing is never done; indeed, so stern is the government's determination not to run the risk of our navy's "ineffective" ships falling into foreign hands that in every case it is stipulated that they shall be broken up in British waters. Thus it occurs that obsolete war vessels, which, perhaps, cost the nation £500,000, or even £750,000, have, from time to time, to be sold for £15,000 or £20,000, when as war vessels they would probably realize twice or thrice as much if sold to a foreign country which did not mind having a navy somewhat out of date.

But sold—as in nearly every case they are—for breaking up, they simply fetch the price of old metal, from which is to be deducted the cost of shipwreckers' labor, this being an important factor, since it stands to reason a man of war cannot be disintegrated with a can opener.

Taken out of commission, the condemned warship lies moored until the admiralty sells her either by auction or private treaty. She is stripped of guns and stores, and generally of certain portions of her fittings, which are given up to date and serviceable. Then she passes into the hands of her purchasers, generally a British firm who have a special plant for dealing with ironclads. She is towed to the most convenient place and her destruction begins. She is ripped to pieces, from quarter-deck to keel. Her engines, decks, steering gear, woodwork—everything is taken from her—until the mere steel shell remains, and the final blows are generally dealt with dynamite to break up her plates. As often as ten or 12 months are occupied in breaking up a battleship.

Then what becomes of her? You may be sitting in a chair the wood of which was once part of a battleship; before a crate made out of a cruiser's plate, for her plates are sold for remodeling, and they turn up unsuspected in a thousand homes, are made into stoves, railway lines, park railings, fire irons, traction engines, etc. If only steel could speak, there's many a humble-looking fire grate which could tell of stirring deeds.

There is not much wood about the warships which fall into the ship breakers' hands nowadays, but what there is commands a ready market for a variety of purposes, as it is understood to be the best, toughest and most seasoned of its kind ordinarily obtainable. At the same time large portions of a ship's timber are good only as fuel and as such it is sold; but it is always reckoned to be the finest fuel wood money can buy. The better stuff is bought for barge building, flooring, etc., to be worked up by carpenters and cabinet makers. Ships' timber is considered particularly good for employment in damp places.

NOT A FARMING COUNTRY.

Gov. Brady's Reports, Says an Alas-
kan, Are All Wrong—Rich
in Metals Only.

"When people read that Alaska is capable of great agricultural develop- ment, they should pass up the state- ment for rubbish and nonsense," said Mr. H. Bratton, at the Arlington, according to the Washington Post.

"Alaska is one of the richest parts of creation in the precious metals, and that is all it is fit for. The Lord never intended it for a farming coun- try, but Gov. Brady has for years, in the indulgence of a hobby, been send- ing out reports of the wonderfu farming possibilities of the territory simply because he manages to rear a few radishes and cabbages in his garden. The truth is that a very few of the hardest vegetables can be produced in some special spot that gets an unusual degree of sunshine but this is about the limit.

"I have been in Alaska for several years, and at the risk of incurring the governor's ill will, am here to say that people who go to Alaska in the hope of raising crops are on the highest sort of a fool's errand. Last summer away up on the Copper river, I met three honest farmers, who had been induced to sell their places in Indiana and go to that desolate region with a view of cultivating the soil. They planted a ton of seed, but never a grain came up, and when I saw them they were heartsick over their failure. It is a shame to send out such delusive reports. Alaska is all right as a min- ing country, and not a tithe of its wealth has been taken out, but a man wants to go there exclusively for mining or to view its beautiful scenery."

Inhabits the Ohio River and First Caught by Accident.

Given a Scientific Name by the Gov-
ernment Fish Commission and
May Become Valuable as
an Article of Food.

A new species of shad has been dis- covered in this country. It inhabits the Ohio river, and has been named by the authorities of the United States fish commission at Washington "Alosa Ohiensis."

From time to time the fish commis- sion had heard of the catching of shad in the Mississippi basin, and as long ago as 1872 Prof Baird called attention to the occurrence of shad in the Ouachita river in Arkansas. But it was not until recently that the members of the fish commission procured specimens of the fish, which when examined was found to be a new species of shad, differ- ing in many important particulars from shad as taken from the North river and from other waters on the Atlantic seaboard, says a Washington report.

These new shad have been caught by means of seines light-lead so that they would fish the upper few feet of water rather than the bottom. This method of fishing was first adopted in order to get the "moonbill cat," which, when running, swims close to the sur- face. When the nets were hauled in it was found that the shad had been cap- tured at the same time. The two species of fish appear to run together. The principal seining ground has been near Louisville, below the falls of the Ohio and between Rock island and the In- diana shore.

All the known facts regarding the distribution and habits of the Ohio shad indicate that it has regular runs, like the common shad.

It appears in the Mississippi on the borders of Coahoma County, Miss., about the middle of March; in the lower Ohio about a month later (April 20), at Louisville still a little later (April 28 to May 20), and in the Kanawha river at Montgomery, West Va., in the lat- ter part of May.

The Ouachita, river, Arkansas, from which shad have been reported, has its mouth in the Red River, near the con- fluence of the latter with the Missis- sippi, more than 200 miles below Co- hama, and only about 200 miles from the Gulf of Mexico. Although it has not been proved that these shad come up from the Gulf of Mexico, it is re- garded as certain that they do, and that they are as truly anadromous as is the Atlantic shad.

Whether important fisheries for the Ohio shad can be established remains to be determined. In the first place, it is not yet known whether the fish is commercially abundant. It is con- sidered not at all improbable that its apparent scarcity may be due merely to the fact that the method of fishing in vogue in the Mississippi basin have not been such as would prove effective in the capture of shad. Gill nets and trap nets are scarcely known, and where seines are used they are usually landed so as to fish the bottom, and are hauled mostly during the daytime. Shad might very well be present in abundance and remain forever un- known so long as the present fishing methods are continued.

Many plants of Atlantic shad have been made by the United States fish commission in the waters of the Missis- sippi basin—the first in 1873 and the last in 1893—and although none of the planted shad has since been received by the fish commission for identifica- tion, and the capture of none has been fully authenticated, it does not follow by any means that none has survived. It is regarded as by no means improb- able that the Atlantic shad may now be abundant in the gulf and its tribu- tary streams, and that a thorough investigation may establish the fact.

The spawning time of the shad in the Ohio river is not earlier than the 10th of June. The numerous examples seen at Louisville May 16 to 19 were far from ripe, and it is regarded as doubtful if any of them would have spawned much before the middle of June.

As an article of food the Ohio shad does not yet seem to have appealed to the citizens of the Mississippi valley. At Louisville they sold at a low price, the price received by the fisherman being but two cents a pound, the same that was paid for carp, "buffalo," and toothed herring. Those who are fa- miliar with the delicious Atlantic shad and who know how to prepare it find the Ohio species not at all inferior.

If the shad should be found to be present in the Mississippi and its tributaries in sufficient numbers to justify the establishment of permanent fisheries each spring, there is, it is be- lieved, little doubt but that it would soon become quite as highly prized as its near relative in the Atlantic coastal streams.

A Touching Eulogy.
The following brief but touching eulogy was recently pronounced by a sergeant over the tomb of a soldier in the cemetery at La Haye: "Comrades, the deceased, a friend of us all, had a clean sheet. He looked after his boots, which rarely required mending, and he always had some money to draw from his pay. Imitate his example, com- rades."

Weekly Oregonian—Heppner Gazette.

Makes digestion and assimilation per- fect. Makes new red blood and bone. That's what Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea will do. A tonic for the sick and weak. 35 cents, Tea or Tablets.—W. P. McMillan, Lexington, Oregon.

State of Ohio, County of Toledo, ss.
Lucas County,

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FRANK J. CHENEY,
Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence this 8th day of December, A. D. 1886.
[SEAL] A. W. GLEASON,
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RICE—Best head rice 10c per pound; next grade 6½ cents per pound.
SUGAR—Cane granulated, best \$6 50 per sack; do 13 pounds \$1.
SALT—Coarse 75c per 100; \$14.00 ton.
FLOUR—\$4 65@5 30 per barrel.
BACON—15@20c per pound.
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POTATOES—New, 2½c per pound.
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BEEF CATTLE, ETC.
COWS—\$1 75 per hundred.
STEERS—\$2 65 per hundred.
VEAL—Dressed, 5c per pound.
SHEEP—\$3 50@4 00.
HOGS—Live, 5c; dressed, 6 cents @7c per pound.

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Morrow County, Oregon.

Morrow County is a new country, and like all other new countries, is awaiting development. Located in the Columbia river valley, and skirted on the South with a spur of the Blue moun- tains, within the boundaries of Morrow county is a territory 75 miles in length by 35 miles in width, and containing 1,313,280 acres of land. Formerly stockraising was the principal industry, but lat- erly the fertility of the land is bringing agriculture to the front. Immense wheat crops are grown with little cultivation, the soil being mixed with a volcanic ash which is very rich in wheat-producing qualities. The 1904 crop will aggregate 1,400,000 bushels, much of it from virgin soil.

Morrow county has thousands of head of sheep, horses and cattle. The wool production for 1904 was 2,500,000 pounds. Alfalfa and fruit growing are profitable industries, rapidly growing in importance. The county has also a great coal field, soon to be developed.

The Heppner Gazette

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