MEDFORDMAILTRIBUNE

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| *ntered as wecond | d elasn mater November 1, 1809, it the pontoffice at Medtord. Oregon, under the net of Sarch 1, 1878 . |
|  | SUESCRIPTI ON RATES: <br> 15.00 Ote month by mall or carrier .... 1 | NEED OF GREATER

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

TWO NEW BATTLESHIPS.
that the committee on naval affairs have decided to rec-
ommend to congress the immediate construction of two
new 18,000 -ton battleships at a cost of $\$ 11,000,000$ each.
The announcement follows closely upon a recent contribu-
tion to Leslie's Weekly by Secretary Wilson of the de-
partment of agriculture, in which he urged a revision of
an old adage and would beat, not swords, but figuratively,
battleships into plowshares. The announcement of the com-
mittee and the philosophy of Secretary Wilson are singu-
larly pertinent in view of the present agitation regarding
the high cost of living.
Here is how the secretary puts it:
"A t0-arre farm of irrigated land will comfortably
support a family of five. It costs $\$ 55,000$ to make a 12 -
inch gum. The money that goes to pay for this gun would
reclaim 1571 acres of land, providing homes for 196 peo-
ple. When all the guns on the battleships are shot one
time, the government blows in noise and smoke $\$ 150,000$.
This would reclaim 4000 acres of land, giving homes to
more than 500 farmers and their families. The money con-
sumed in powder is lost to all future."
Probably not one patriotic sensible American questions
the duty and wisdom of providing amply for the national
defense, but for years the estimates for militarism have
been going steadily upward and onward. And is it wise to
continue to thrust staggering burdens upon the taxpayers
to carry a tremendous navy, while the farms of the coun-
try, which support the navy and every other industrial
and commercial factor, are neglected?
More federal money spent in agricultural education, in
parcels posts and in other aids to the farmer, and less on
battleships would assist greatly in solving the problem
of the cost of living.
To bring the question home: We are told that owing
to President Taft's policy of retrenchment Medford can-
not have a weather bureau, yet the administration has
$\$ 22,000,000$ to build two additional battleships.
The American people will soon reach a point where
they ean no longer ignore the elemental question of sub-
sistence. They are making, a poor preparation for it by
their financial neglect of the farmer.
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## MUST CARE FOR VISITORS

OAKLINONEWSBOY WALKS
WONOERFUL WORK OF FER-DON'S EXPERTS

Men Prominent In Big New York Graft Charge Case.


AVALANCHE KILLS 500


[^0]:    MORAN AND MURP

