

Atlantic Fleet in Fighting Trim.

Most Powerful Sea Force Ever Assembled Under the Flag is on Edge for Battle—Like a Workshop of War—Waiting Period Spent in Turning Out Gun Crews for Merchantmen and Breaking in Recruits.

With the United States Atlantic Fleet, May 24.—The big ships of the most powerful fleet ever under the American flag, when visited by a correspondent of the Associated Press, through arrangement with the Committee on Public Information, were working day and night to bring about the defeat of Germany on the sea. Ready for battle, they are spending the waiting period turning out sailor men.

The fleet, temporarily, is a great workshop of war. Already it is turning out one of its finished products—men who can fight. They are serving the guns on American armed merchant ships. Its other product—men who can run the great merchant fleet of the United States will use to feed the Allies—will be ready as soon as the ships are ready.

Five-inch guns, the kind principally used against submarines, are there by the hundreds. On the decks great turrets house long fourteen and twelve inch rifles—three or two to a turret. On high platforms guns used for defense against airplanes point to the sky. Brass is always shining, steel is always polished, paint is always new, decks are always white from scrubbing.

The men behind the guns have lost shipmates in the war—they were gun crews on merchantmen sunk by German submarines. And other shipmates now are on duty aboard the destroyers operating with the British and French fleets. The men with the Atlantic Fleet are working to prepare themselves to avenge the killing of their mates.

Here's what happened the other day: A crew was practicing with a five-inch gun. A bluejacket about 17—he still had down on his chin—was pointing. He grasped handles on a broad brass wheel; his eye was steady. The rest of a long sight through which he saw the target. His duty was to keep the gun on the target so it might be fired any time. Around this heedless youth were grouped other gunners ready to fire when his crew had completed its period.

First Shot Hits.
The breach snapped open, the load was thrown home, the breach was hurled back in place, and then a buzzer, operated from the fire control station, sounded; there was a flash, a roar, the hiss of a projectile speeding through the air, and the louder hiss of compressed air blowing smoke out of the gun. Miles away the projectile struck the target.

"Guess that's bad," said an old man-o-war's man looking on admiringly at the third shot, as the gun crew got the range and the pillar of white water leaped into the air.

Suppose that had been a submarine and—

The buzzer, the roar of the gun, and the hiss of air interrupted him.

"Another hit! That's some shooting."

On the after deck latest arrivals aboard the ship were set to work that day, and every other day, in fact, upon the loading machines. They consist principally of a breach and block and a slide that carries away dummy projectiles and powder bags. Officers with stop watches in their hands set one crew after another to work, the idea being to develop extreme loading speed by competition. The newest members of the ship's companies work for days at these loading machines. The next step in their training carries them to the guns. But they are not yet ready to fire the regular charges. One-pounders that go off with a sharp crack are lashed on top of the big guns and the crews go through all the motions of firing, but instead of a big shell a little one weighing a pound speeds for the target when the buzzer sounds or when the turret Captains in charge of the bigger rifles yell "Fire!"

After a period of firing with the sub-calibre arrangement the crews get down to real battle practice. There are few busier places than a turret in action. Concave steel walls are all around, and a steel roof is just above the heads of the gunners. The pointers sit far forward, underneath the barrels of the guns. Little seats like those on a motor-cycle are there for them and on every side are instruments. As the turret begins to fire, a lift, bearing the huge projectile, bangs up from below, great bags of powder slide from the magazines into a long brass trough. Husky bluejackets toss the powder into another brass trough that is slipped into position at the gigantic breach. The projectile, almost as large as a man, meanwhile has been rolled into the trough, a long automatic rammer has jumped from the rear and shoved it into the barrel. The powder bags are driving home, a man at the breach swings a lever, a ton of steel swings up with a hiss of compressed air. The breach block turns and locks, a buzzer sounds, the charge is ignited, and with a rush of air the guns recoil about a yard and then jump back into position. There is a loud "swish" as the guns come back and then go forward. Inside the turret not much more than that is heard.

Outside it is much different. There is a flash, a roar, a ring of smoke, and the loud whistle of the projectile rushing through the air. So great is the concussion that every man outside has cotton or some other substance in his ears to save his ear drums from being broken.

Landsmen Learn Quickly.
Fifteen seconds from "Commence firing" to "Fire" is considered good time for the big guns in the navy. They have new gun crews in training now who never saw salt water until three weeks ago who are doing the thing easily in sixteen seconds.

Some nights the ships of the fleet cruise in waters nearby for night battle practice. Other nights they are

T. J. EDENS.

Received to-day, June 5, '17:
N. Y. CHICKEN.
N. Y. CORNED BEEF.
BANANAS—Selected.
GRAPE FRUIT.
TABLE APPLES.
CAL. ORANGES—35c., 50c.
60c. doz.
CELERY.
NEW CABBAGE.
RIPE TOMATOES.
CUCUMBERS.
RHUBARB.

300 bags WHITE OATS.
100 bags BLACK OATS.
(Selected F. E. I. Stock).
100 bags BRAN.
100 bags HOMINY, \$2.60 bag.
100 bags BADGER FEED, \$2.50 bag.

3 lb. tin Tomatoes20c.
3 lb. tin Pork & Beans25c.
1 lb. tin Lunch Tongue45c.

100 bags LOCAL POTATOES
(Selected stock).

CHEESE—
English Cheddar.
Canadian.
McLaren's.
Ingersoll—Cream.
Dutch Cream.
Parmesan—Grated.

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Duckworth Street and
Military Road.

localities which are favored by cloudbursts every thirty days, however, popular taste runs to roofs with a sharp peak, telephone poles and the sure-footed flatboat.

The cloudburst seldom attacks a community unless it lies in the path of an unused creek bed, which immediately overflows in several different directions and lines Main street with live stock, top buggies and the waving arms and legs of people who did not learn to swim in their youth. It also stops long enough to uproot some humble church and permit the brethren to collect enough insurance to meet the pastor's salary. Sometimes a stout, healthy cloudburst will so change the face of the business district that it will have to be entirely remodeled at the expense of property owners who appreciate the rent, but prefer to live elsewhere.



People refuse to take any stock in Noah until they are rescued from the top of a cottonwood tree after a cloudburst.

As a general thing, there is no telling when or where a cloudburst will light. The United States weather bureau forecasts them with great accuracy and success the second day after several thousand people have been rendered homeless and driven into cold, unspiced rain water up to their necks. The bureau then comes out with a warning to the public, and urges every home to lay in a supply of life belts, rope ladders, hip boots and climbing irons. We should all revere the weather bureau, for it is a national institution, but when a thunder storm heaves in sight it is better to trust to the voice of the 75-cent barometer.

Attacked by Dogs

Repeatedly attention has been drawn to the herds of savage dogs at large in the city and destruction done by them to property and otherwise. On Saturday last two small children named Firth, who were playing near their home on York Street, were set upon and served badly by two mongrels that are a positive menace to that neighbourhood. For the public safety it is essential that such canines should be prescribed for in no uncertain fashion and the attention of the police is directed to the matter.

Fashions and Fads.

A new veiling has a design made of ostrich feather flues.
Plain white cottons and linens are favored for wash skirts.
Garden hats are trimmed with vegetables made of ribbon.
Metal grays and olives promise to be still more fashionable.
Hair-lace edging relieves the severity of the tailored hat.
The reversible satin coat will be the tailored hat.
The reversible satin coat will be the fashionable summer wrap.
The hat of purple and a navy blue dress make a pretty combination.



Developing and Finishing.

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MINARD'S LINIMENT CURES DIPH-
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FRESH, BRIGHT STOCK.

100 Cases LIBBY'S PORK AND BEANS,
75 Cases ARMOUR'S PORK AND BEANS,
100 Cases ROSEBUD MILK,
100 Cases CLEANED CURRANTS,
50 Cases MIXED PICKLES, 13 oz. bottles.
50 Cases CHOW CHOW, 13 oz. bottles.
5 Cases SINCLAIR'S BACON, 10 Tierces HAMS,
600 Boxes LESLIE'S BAKING POWDER,
2 oz., 1-4, 1-2 & 1 lb. Tins.
ALL AT LOWEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

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LIMITED

THE CHANCE OF THE WEEK

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Ladies' English Neckwear

in nice, new, neat MUSLIN COLLARS,
Embroidered or trimmed with Lace; TWENTY different designs
and your choice for

25 cents.

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LADIES!

Special Value in Ladies' Vests with and without wing sleeve, 15c. each.	Extra Special Value. Ladies' Hose in Tan and Black, 17c. per pair.
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Children's HATS.

We are showing a very pretty assortment of Silk Hats
for Children

at \$1.20.

See Our Window for Vests and Hosiery.

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And the Worst is Yet to Come--



Ran-dom Reels.

THE CLOUDBURST.

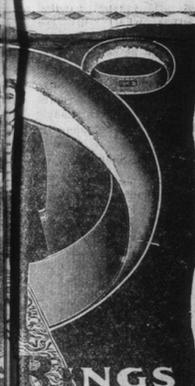
The cloudburst is an effort on the part of nature to renew popular belief in the deluge and the story of Noah's ark. In some parts of the country there is so much unbelief that people refuse to take any stock in Noah until they are rescued from the top of a cottonwood tree after a cloudburst, when they immediately become converted to the idea and attend prayer meeting for several weeks. Cloudbursts are caused by a large body of water collecting in one spot and falling upon the earth in a solid lump. Sometimes this lump is so solid that it irons out the unsuspecting pedestrian in a smooth and efficient manner and washes him into the nearest basement, where he is pursued by the cloudburst and has to take refuge on top of a hot-air furnace. In

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