

Preparation for Possible War Is Bleeding the Nations Weak

Francis W. Hirst Thinks Uncle Sam Has a Splendid Opportunity to Win Unfading Glory by Playing the Part of a Common-Sense Mediator in This Foolishly Extravagant Contest.

Francis W. Hirst, a Londoner, who has written various works on political economy and international law, came to this country the other day to attend a meeting in Washington of the American Society for the Judicial Settlement of International Disputes...

The two crying evils we have to remedy are the waste of life and money caused by wars and the waste of money caused by armaments. As the diseases change and vary, so we must be ready to apply various remedies...

"What is the present trend of British opinion?" was the next question. ENGLAND FORGETS ECONOMY. "Of late years, in England as in other countries, politicians and statesmen have been chiefly concerned with the selection of new, or the increase of old, taxes..."

MR. ASQUITH'S WARNING. Yes, but as Mr. Asquith pointed out the other day, the growth of armaments is becoming such a financial burden upon even the richest states that the taxation it involves is provoking most dangerous internal discontents...

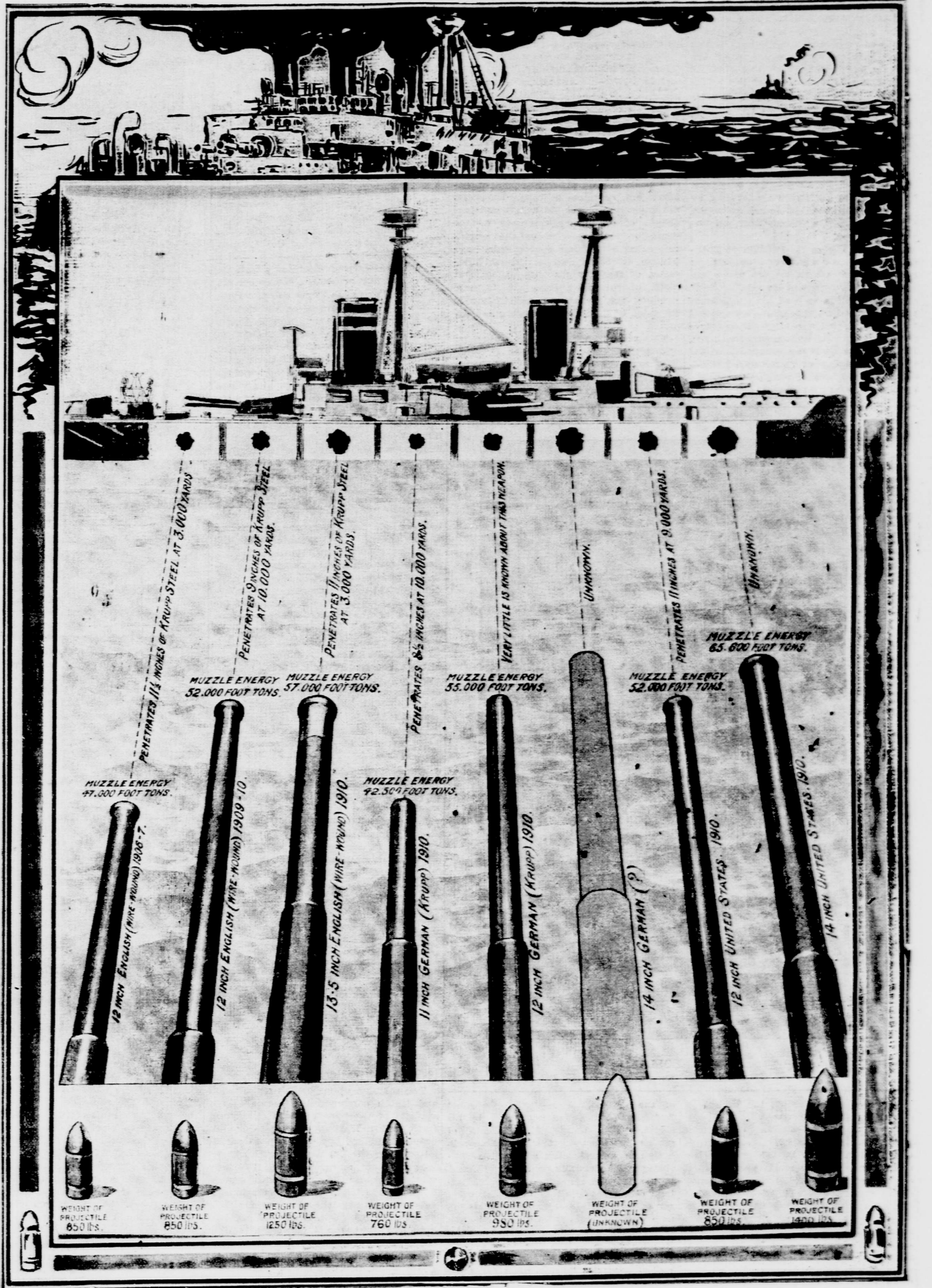
"Are your armament contractors the chief cause of this continued expansion?" the caller inquired. "The official answer is found in the rise of a new naval power. Until a few years ago the German government contented itself with the possession of the most powerful and best organized army in the world..."

"During the three years preceding the South African war our total naval expenditure was more than £67,000,000. The ill feeling aroused by that war on the Continent, and the fear of intervention by the European powers while our troops were in Africa, caused further sensational additions to the navy..."

"There followed some economies, such as the reduction of the China and Mediterranean squadrons and a discontinuance of the practice of maintaining great numbers of cruisers in every part of the world. But these economies were almost entirely absorbed in new expenditures for construction..."

"The growing wealth and power of contractors who supply governments with stores and armaments of all kinds is portentous. They can well afford to keep newspapers which shall play upon public fears and jealousies, setting off one prospective battleship against another..."

A WAR THAT NEVER CEASES. The expensive fight between the manufacturers of big guns that can penetrate anything, and the manufacturers of thick armor that cannot be penetrated. One side is victor to-day. The other is triumphant to-morrow. Where will it be?



PICTORIAL DIAGRAM SHOWING MUZZLE ENERGY, PENETRATING POWER AND WEIGHT OF PROJECTILES HURLED BY THE GREAT GUNS OF THE WORLD'S NAVIES.

The British 13.5-inch gun and the original Dreadnought was floated, the calibre 12-inch of 1909 and 1910, which has a muzzle-energy of something over 52,000 foot-tonnes. The newest weapon has a projectile weighing 1,250 pounds...

AN ARGUMENT BY DISRAELI. "The more you reduce the burdens of the people in time of peace the greater will be your strength when the hour of peril comes," said Disraeli. That is a sound military argument for economy in armaments.



FRANCIS W. HIRST, EDITOR OF 'THE LONDON ECONOMIST.' "The growing wealth and power of contractors who supply governments with stores and armaments of all kinds is portentous."

Advertisement for Cravenette raincoats. It features the brand name 'Cravenette' in a stylized font, followed by text describing it as a process, not a cloth, and suitable for all purposes. It includes a warning about raincoats and contact information for Cravenette Co., U.S.A.

"The German fleet which has struck such panic is largely imaginary, however, and the supposed danger is entirely due to the fact that our Admiralty invented the Dreadnought and fostered an impression that this type of ship had superseded all others. It is only by imagining that at some future date Germany will have as many Dreadnoughts as Great Britain that any material for panicky extravagance can be got together. But many eminent authorities, and apparently most of our naval captains and admirals, consider that the Dreadnought type is positively inferior to the King Edward; and no one can be found to suggest that battleships of every other type should be 'scrapped,' which would be the logical consequence of adopting the Dreadnought principle."

freedom of the seas. He is also thinking of the splendid way in which British and American statesmen have co-operated in solving their difficulties by arbitral proceedings. Why should not this process be made automatic in future, so as to exclude all possibility of serious disputes between Great Britain and the United States? JOHN ELFRETH WATKINS.

The Christmas Shopping of Actors

own brood and four adopted ones, was playing Santa Claus to them all in sober earnest, while at another counter a dainty musical comedy dancer and singer was purchasing supplies needful for her eighteen-year-old boy in college. But how did it happen that fifteen thousand actors were shopping and "near shopping" in town last week? It's this way: The power plant of stageland runs half time—and half salary—the weeks preceding Christmas and Easter. The managers, according to the wording of the contracts, have the option of working their actors and paying them half salary or laying them off and paying them nothing. With many of the companies the latter course was taken. Broadway is the actor's idea of Paradise, and to Broadway most of those laid off within easy distance of New York hurried.