

held at Brussels, was successful in arranging a treaty freeing the Scheldt. Belgium and the other interested Powers bought the toll right from Holland for £1,400,000, of which sum Belgium paid £480,000. Since then Antwerp has gone ahead by leaps and bounds. With its suburbs it has a population of about 360,000. Of these 16,000 are Dutch, and 10,000 Germans.

Is Antwerp the Greatest Sea Port in the Whole World?

New York handled a couple of hundred thousand more tons last year, but for a long time Antwerp has been first. The recent immense growth in tonnage of the transatlantic liners has given New York her premier position. The figures are interesting:—

	Entered.	Cleared.
New York	13,763,765	13,549,138
Antwerp	13,233,677	13,272,665
Hamburg	11,830,949	11,945,239
Hong Kong	11,138,527	11,142,117
Rotterdam	10,624,499	10,609,814
London	10,800,716	8,748,008
Monte Video	8,244,375	8,121,543
Marseilles	8,051,321	8,198,874
Singapore	7,737,785	7,717,691
Cardiff	6,236,944	9,168,115
Liverpool	7,253,016	7,446,873
Colombo	7,074,152	7,073,170
Rio de Janeiro	5,212,713	5,198,784
Shanghai	4,183,528	4,155,152

How Big is Belgium?

11,373 square miles. Not half the size of Tasmania. Holland is 12,628 square miles; Germany is 208,780 square miles, two-thirds the size of New South Wales. Prussia is far the largest and most important of the States composing the German Empire; it is 194,616 square miles, and has a population of over 40,000,000. The next largest is Bavaria, 29,000 square miles, and 7,000,000 inhabitants. France is almost exactly the same size as Germany—viz., 207,054. If she regains Alsace-Lorraine she will be larger than the Empire by 9000 square miles.

What are the Distances in the European Battleground?

The total length of the German frontier from Holland to Switzerland is only 250 miles. That is to say, as far as Melbourne is from the South Australia border, or Sydney is from Albury. The distance from Liege to Brussels is 55 miles, not so far as from Melbourne to the Heads by train. The comparative smallness of the area involved is shown by the following distances:—

	Miles.
Berlin-Munich	315
Berlin-Paris	550
Berlin-Posen	150
Berlin-St. Petersburg	1150
Berlin-Warsaw	330
Brussels-Cologne	115
Dover-Brussels	140
Dover-Calais	21
London-Wilhelmshafen	400
Munich-Paris	430
Munich-St. Petersburg	1300
Munich-Venice	190
Munich-Vienna	230
Paris-Amiens	80
Paris-Beauvais	50
Paris-Belgian Frontier	115
Paris-German Frontier	170
Paris-Verdun	140
Posen-Warsaw	180
Strassburg-French Frontier	30
Vienna-Belgrade	310
Vistula-East Prussian Frontier	170

How are the Ships of the Various Powers Distributed in the Pacific?

Last year the Great Powers had the following ships there:—

Great Britain.	Germany.	France
	Armoured Cruisers.	
Minotaur	Gneisnau	Montcalm
Hampshire	Scharnhorst	Dupleix
		Kleber

Light Cruisers

Yarmouth	Leipzig
Newcastle	Emden
	Nurnberg

In addition, Great Britain has destroyers and submarines, five protected cruisers in the East Indies, and odd gunboats in China and on the Canadian coast. Holland has four small cruisers and six destroyers, and two submarines, besides other small vessels in the East Indies. The Australian Navy consists of one battle-cruiser, three light cruisers, two submarines and destroyers. New Zealand has three small cruisers. The two German armored cruisers are 11,420 tons, 23 knots, 4 to 6 in. armored belt, and 2 in. deck. They are armed with eight 8.2 in. guns and six 5.9 in., and twenty 3.4 in., and fourteen smaller guns. The Minotaur, the largest British cruiser, is 14,600 tons, 23 knots, 6 in. armor belt, and has four 9.2 in. guns, ten 7.5 in., twenty-two smaller guns, and eight machine guns. The Hampshire is smaller, and is armed with 7.5 and 6 in. guns only. She is a 23-knotter also. The German light cruisers are speedy boats of the type of the Amphion, sunk in the North Sea. French armored cruisers are 8000-ton boats, their main armament being 6.4 in. guns. There is a Russian Squadron based at Vladivostock, but it is not a powerful one. Great Britain has, besides her fast cruisers, two battleships in reserve, the Triumph (11,800 tons, 4 10in guns) at Hong Kong, and the Swiftsure, a sister ship, at Singapore.

What About the Japanese and American Fleets?

The Americans keep only a few ships on their West Coast, but since the completion of the Panama Canal their entire fleet can speedily enter the Pacific. They have 31 battleships (twelve being Dreadnoughts), 15 armored cruisers, 14 protected cruisers, 45 destroyers and 35 submarines. The Japanese have 15 battleships (four Dreadnoughts), 5 battle cruisers, 9 armored cruisers, 16 protected cruisers, 60 destroyers, and 13 submarines. (Full particulars of the Fleets of the European Powers were given last month.)

What is the Difference Between a Battleship, Battle Cruiser, Armored Cruiser, Protected Cruiser, and Unprotected Cruiser?

A battleship is specially designed to give and take hard knocks in a fleet action. The Orion, one of the latest Superdreadnoughts, has a twelve-inch steel belt, and ten 13.5 inch guns. Her speed is 23 knots, her tonnage 22,500, and she cost £1,900,000 to build. A battle cruiser combines the swiftness of a cruiser with the armament and protection of a Dreadnought. The Lion, the latest of this type, is 26,350 tons, has a speed of 34.7 knots, carries eight great 13.5 inch guns, and has an armor belt 9 3/4 inches thick; she cost no less than £2,100,000 to build. H.M.A.S. Australia is of this type, but much smaller, 18,000 tons, 25 knots, and eight 12 inch guns. An armored cruiser is a vessel of high speed, with vertical and external armor. The latest of these are 14,600 tons, 23 knots, have an armor belt six inches thick, and an armored deck one inch thick; they are armed with four 9.2 in. guns, ten 7.5 in., 16 3 in., and machine guns. A protected cruiser has no armor excepting to protect the guns, but has an armored deck. The Melbourne and Sydney are of this type, 5440 tons, 25 knots, nine 6 in. guns, four three-pounders, and four machine guns. The Encounter is 400 tons heavier, but can only do 21 knots. She is, however, more heavily armed.

How Many Rounds Can a Great Gun Fire Before Wearing Out?

Twelve-inch guns, and those of still larger size, can fire ninety full charges only. After that they are sent to the foundry, where they have a new core inserted, and can fire a further ninety rounds. By the time a gun has fired 180 rounds (in time of peace), it is practically obsolete. Only eight full charges are fired per annum, for practice half charges only are used. These only wear out the gun one-eighth as much as does a full charge, or even less.