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FROM A NEEDLE TO AN ANCHOR.

From the time of Alfred the Great who founded the Navy, His Majesty's ships have had to be kept supplied with stores. The old saying "Everything from a Needle to an Anchor" is not just a catch phrase; it's founded on fact. Maybe you'd like to know the facts. After all, you're helping to buy a new Navy.

Now when we say stores, we mean everything from a - - - well, an immense range of articles. Look at this Naval Depot, where tens of thousands of spare parts are kept in well arranged storehouses. Stocks are laid out as they would be in any large Department Store. In war, more likely than not, the ships cannot come to their Home Bases to draw supplies, and their requirements have to be sent to them. Oh yes, these Marine Storehouses (and there are a dickens of a lot of 'em) are busy places.

Rawmaterials such as copper, zinc and tin have to be available in large ~~quantities~~ quantities for use ashore and afloat. This stock alone is worth more than 20,000 pounds... and that's a lot of copper.

The sight of lifebelts brings us to the question of safety. We all know the meaning of dispersal and in this war, with its intensive scale of air attack, the Navy has acquired all kinds of queer places for the storage of valuable equipment.

Certain cloth mills which formerly were fully occupied making cloth for national consumption, have, under the Government policy for the telescoping of industry, been turned over to the Navy. Over their acres of floor space are spread some of the scores of articles which must be immediately available for the artificers, artisans and shipwrights when repairs or replacements are needed. A network of depots dispersed all over the country provides for all and every requirement.

Every big ship in the fleet is fitted with some 250 miles of electric cable and wire, so there's always plenty of that in store.

And then there's the matter of chains. Chains for many purposes. Mooring chains, chains for Anti-Submarine booms, anchor chains for ships of all sorts and sizes. We tried to find out how far all these links would reach if they were placed end on end. Even the Brains Trust and the Rainy Trust shied at that one. But the average length of Anchor Chain on a Battleship is 500 fathoms or 3000 feet.

In the last war, as in this, the Navy had to invent a sweep to counter enemy mines. This means the provision of hundreds of thousands of

floats to keep the sweeping wires from singing. Important items in the Naval Inventory.

In the torpedo sheds large stocks of "tin fish" await their call up. Before despatch for service they are tested, and later have their war-heads fitted, the business end that contains the charge and firing gear. In the Navy three sizes of ~~torpedo~~ torpedo are used. The biggest weighs nearly one and a half tons. And that brings us to the all important matter of shells. You can well imagine the enormous stocks of projectiles that have to be supplied and maintained. Every size from a 16 inch armour piercing to a pom-pom shell is stored in secret magazines far below the ground.

Girl workers wear duffle coats to combat the cold temperatures that prevail in the labyrinth of passages that honeycomb this subterranean arsenal.

Guns have big appetites and must never go hungry. Quite a large slice of that twelve millions a day that the war is costing us goes into the making of shells. Maybe these will find a mark in the Mediterranean... the Pacific Ocean, the broad Atlantic, or wherever the guns of His Majesty's ships go into action.

And don't forget gun barrels have to be replaced from time to time. During periods of refit, warships may have a new set of teeth fitted in which case another Naval Ordnance Depot gets busy.

Before delivery, the breech mechanism is tested and thoroughly overhauled. The Admiral wants a gun; the men whose job it is to handle these weighty things will see that he gets it.

Leave it to the Navy to put it to good purpose. From the tropics to the Arctic Ocean comes the thunder of a thousand guns.

A drop in the ocean at fourteen hundred and fifty pounds a time. But our Navy must have everything, from a Needle to an Anchor.