

# Provisioning the "Biggest Ship in the World"

## For Every Round Trip the "Majestic" Must Store Enough Food to Feed 10,200 Persons

### 60 Cooks, 20 Bakers and 14 Butchers Prepare More Than 200 Tons Of Meat, Fish, Vegetables, Eggs and Fruit.

By Harry Cunningham.

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FANCIFUL writers have frequently referred to the great ocean liners as "floating hotels," convinced that this summed up the magnitude and comfort of these craft and expressed the community idea. With the coming of the gigantic White Star steamship Majestic, which arrived in this port yesterday, the hotel characterization is conspicuously inadequate. She is a floating city.

This designation of her comes not of consideration of her tonnage—which is a gargantuan 56,000 tons—nor of her length, breadth and depth. Nor does it come entirely of the fact that she has space for a population of 5,100 souls, 4,100 being passengers. It is more properly registered by her commissariat, because the Majestic carries enough food to feed 10,200 persons, the population of a community which is proud to call itself a city.

There is more food aboard this vessel than was ever before placed on an ocean steamship. Each time she leaves Southampton bound for the States she must carry sufficient provender to feed passengers and crew until she returns to that port.

The genius presiding over this great problem in provision for the ship's company is John Pearse, the grand chef, senior chef of the White Star Line. Under him are sixty cooks, twenty bakers and fourteen butchers.

As figures are perhaps more persuasive in picturing the gigantic size and equipment of this super-vessel, let them be unrolled, as from the unbelievable sleeve of a magician:

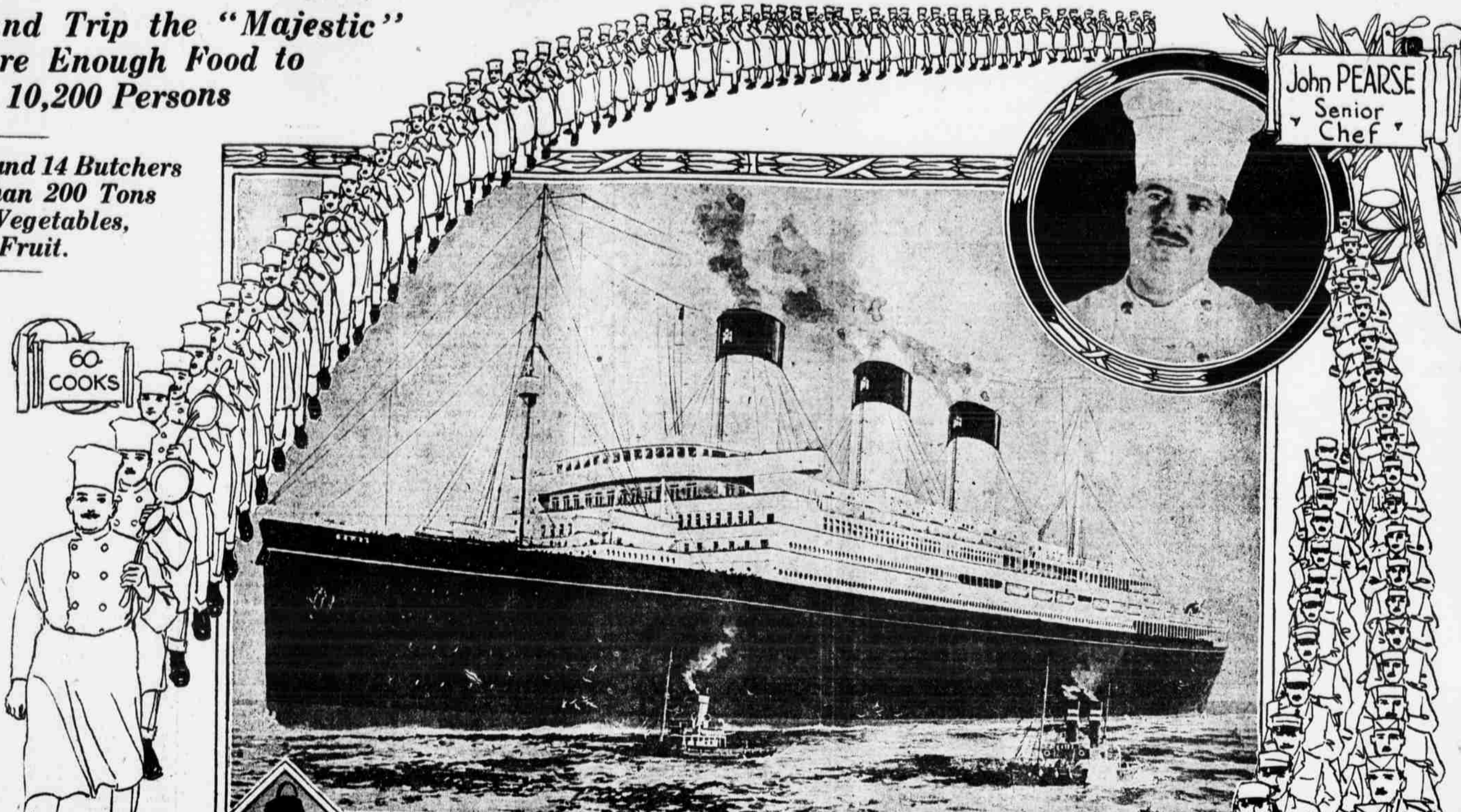
In tons the meat supply put on the Majestic totals seventy-five, while it is necessary to stock up with ten tons of bacon and hams, twenty-eight tons of fish and eighteen tons of poultry. Also there are 1,000 each of plover, quail, snipe and pheasant; 750 each of partridges and grouse and 500 wild ducks,

making a total of 6,000 game birds.

As for vegetables, there are thirty tons of potatoes, seven tons of carrots and turnips and some ten tons of cabbage and several tons of onions and miscellaneous vegetables, as well as 1,600 pounds of hothouse tomatoes.

Fruits! There is no end to them! Boxes of apples to the number of 600; oranges and grapefruit, some 400 crates of them. A ton of hothouse grapes and sixty boxes of pears provide for the mornings' menus.

Then there are thirty-five tons of



John PEARSE Senior Chef

60 COOKS



HAMS & BACON 10 TONS

POULTRY 18 TONS

6000 GAME BIRDS

MEAT 75 TONS

50,000 BOTTLES ALE & STOUT

flour for bread and pastry. Each voyage requires eight tons of sugar and five tons of butter; three tons of tea and coffee, 30,000 eggs and 500 gallons of milk.

Desserts, such as ice cream, jams and marmalades, there is another ton.

For those who need the "cup that cheers" there are 30,000 bottles of ale and stout, 1,000 quarts and 1,600 pints of champagne, 1,000 quarts and 1,600 pints of various wines. There are 4,000 bottles of whiskey, brandy and gin and 800 bottles of liqueurs.

There is no excuse for the chap who always bursts forth that he has smoked his last cigar or cigarette for the Majestic carries a supply of 250,000 cigarettes and 2,240 pounds of tobacco each voyage.



14 Butchers 20 Bakers

In the kitchens, dining rooms and bedrooms there are enough dishes, linen and blankets to supply a city. For instance, there are seventy-five tons of dishes, cooking utensils and bedroom crockery, and nearly four tons of silverware and cutlery. The China and crockery total 80,000 pieces, including 30,000 plates, 16,000 cups, 13,000 saucers, 10,000 cooking dishes, 2,700 pitchers and 2,400 tea and coffee pots. The plates alone would make a path six miles long were they placed side by side, while "stacked" up they

would be a quarter of a mile high. The cups side by side would fill a rack a mile long.

Glassware numbers 29,000 pieces, including 5,000 tumblers, 7,000 wine and spirit glasses, 7,000 salt, pepper and mustard containers and 1,600 water bottles.

The world's fastest dishwasher, whoever he or she may be, were he able to wash them at the rate of two a minute, could not finish the job in less than five months, working eight hours a day.

Silverware and cutlery for the dining saloon and French restaurant aboard the Majestic makes a huge bundle of 55,000 pieces. It takes 10,000 knives and forks to supply the tables.

For the beds there are seventeen tons of blankets, 2,000 mattresses, 2,700 pillows and bolsters number 1,500.

The linen necessary for the steamship amounts to 190,000 pieces, including napkins, doilies and bedspreads, not to forget also the 77,000 towels, 13,000 pillow cases, 8,000 bed-

spreads, 11,000 sheets, 10,500 blankets and 600 quilts.

An idea of just what all this means is readily visualized when it is pointed out that the linen if spread on the ground would cover fifty acres. Hang it on a line and one with an eye for distance would see that it extended 162 miles. Another line fifteen miles long would be necessary to hold the blankets, while the sheets, napkins and tablecloths would require lines sixteen, seventeen and nineteen miles long.

Working eight hours a day for five and a half days to the week and hanging out the linen at the rate of six pieces per minute, a washwoman could finish the job in twelve weeks.

Before one doubts the accuracy of this story one must remember that the Majestic is just 3,000 tons less than the Spanish Armada that nosed up the English Channel in 1588 with a view to destroying England's power on the sea. This formidable attacking flotilla consisted of 132 vessels having a combined tonnage of 69,000 tons.

Then, too, you must remember that the height of the Woolworth Building, the Majestic is 164 feet longer than the Washington Monument and the highest pyramid in Egypt lacks 476 of the mammoth ocean "ferryboat."

