FAST SHELL LOADING.

Uncle Sam Making Experts by the Use of a Dummy Gun.

How does a man feel after he has lifted a ton?

When some one asked that question of "Pop," a friendly, shell-shooter among the Missouri, one of the twelve guns in the turret, visiting the Missouri last week, his reply explained "It makes you feel like a
ton of dynamite." "Pop," in his narrative, calls him, is one of the shell men aboard the Missouri who get into the habit of lifting a ton in course of the recent
target practice of the ships of the Atlantic fleet in the harbor of Guantanamo, Cuba. Of course, the ton lifted was not in a solid bulk, for the
ton was lifted almost daily by the Missouri men were each cut up into twenty parts and were in the shape of 100-pound projectiles that had to be lifted from the floor and placed in the breach of a 6-inch rifle. There are records to show that the feat was accomplished by "Pop" in twenty-four minutes.

Proably there are those who imagine that stuffing 100-pound shells into the breach of a 6-inch rifle at the rate of 30 to 30 seconds, even 20 in a half minute, is easy work. Such people would be surprised to know that even the most skilled sheep could arrive at some definite idea of the physical endurance called for in the performances of the feats of the shell shooters aboard the Missouri.

"Pop," Kennedy put it the other day, "it's difficult to make you fain. "That's no joke," added another of the Missouri's shell men standing near. "Why, when I tackled that game for the first time, once I thought I was coming apart. It was all right up to about the tenth time, then the shells began to get heavy. My muscles began to get sore, and then they seemed to stiffen up. Honest, when I reached for that twentieth shell there was no more feeling in my arms than there is in that tautoal yonder, and I was almost afraid to bend it up for fear I'd crack in two.

"It's all in knowing how," volunteered "Pop." "Now a 6-inch shell is a mighty troubelsome thing to handle. If you don't tackle it right there's no doing anything with it, and if you ever get away from you look out for your back; that's all I have to say. If it strikes your foot you'll likely wear creases in the rest of your life. No, I never had one get away from me, I usually tackle them this way," and, salmoning over the 6-inch shell that lay at his feet, with one hand he pushed its sharp pointed nose into the air with a quick pull. At the same time the other hand lifted the back of the shell and shoved the whole forward just a bit. For the fraction of a second the big shell passed into the air, then settled down into the in slant of one of the shell man's arms, while the other hand caught

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LOADING SIX-INCH SHELLS INTO THE BREACH OF A GUN ON THE MISSOURI.

"Pop" Kennedy is here shown in his famous specialty. His record is loading twenty shells in less than half a minute, therefore, "Pop" raises one ton from the deck (in instamnites) and moves it into the gun.