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BALLOON WARFARE.

PROFESSOR MYERS SAYS NEW YORK COULD BE ATTACKED FROM ABOVE.

He Recalls the Trip Made by the Woman Aeronaut, Carlotta, in 1889—Enemies Could Not Hit the Balloon—European Countries Experimenting.

"Certain European powers are possessed of powerful airships so perfect and complete that in the event of war with the United States they could be sailed over New York or any of the cities near the seaboard and no power on earth could move to check them before they had completely annihilated the cities attacked."

The above paragraph in a Chicago newspaper, extracted from a longer interview reported with me, is going the rounds of the press, accompanied with many doubting criticisms.

Independent of professional scoffs, of which there are many among my acquaintances, there exists evidence that the dispatch referred to is very real. To make this plain I may recall the trip made in a hydrogen gas balloon by the woman aeronaut, Carlotta, in July, 1889, when she followed a prescribed and defined route across Brooklyn, New York and Jersey City, using a variety of wind currents simply by adding their velocities and floating on one or another as will by the usual method of dispensing gas or ballast.

The route was from Washington Park baseball grounds, Brooklyn, over the city hall, down to the Battery or Castle Garden; across up the East river past the Brooklyn bridge; then at right angles across New York and to the Jersey shore; thence diagonally down and across the North river to the Pennsylvania Railroad Depot, and thence up the whole length of Jersey City to Secaucus. Hundreds of thousands of people in these three great cities witnessed this flight, as the fair was between 4 and 5 p. m., when the cities' workers were going home.

A swift return current high up was it possible for the wind navigator to turn in about ten minutes. A speed test was made at the same time of the resources of civilization for rapid transit below by boat, car, carriage and elevated road. To travel the same distance in this way required nine changes and two hours' time.

Now assume that Carlotta's ballet cast out along the route it consisted of inflammable compounds and destructive explosives (not dynamite, but something deadlier, which cannot be fired from a cannon), and one need only trace on the map the course noted to realize that a broad swath of carnage and flame would have more than tested all the resources of these three cities—its finest police, its ambulances and hospitals and its magnificent fire departments.

So much for the work of an old fashioned gas balloon in the hands of a skillful air navigator. As a matter of ordinary professional business I am ready to contract to duplicate this exhibition.

Recent tests by foreign powers with modern artillery, firing at balloon targets under favorable conditions (not obtainable in actual balloon warfare), assume that little is to be feared by the aeronaut. The mark itself is relatively small when distant.

Let any investigating marksman try his rifle on a toy balloon at moderate rifle range, and then remember how much easier of manipulation is this arm compared with cannon.

How many of the cannon protecting New York are adapted to elevations almost overhead? What would be the results of cannon balls or shells returning on the city after projection upward?

On the other hand, it is quite easy to slide the most dangerous missiles broadcast or on a slant, with guiding planes, in any direction from the airship.

The aeronautic services of foreign nations possess captive balloons for reconnoitering or complete observation of everything in sight, from above, over an immense area; signaling, including the transmission of cipher messages long distances by electrical flash lights, with the Morse code of long and short flashes or any other, and search lights indicating the position of an enemy at night without revealing the position of the vessel, fort or point to which the balloon is anchored.

The value of these aids to modern warfare can readily be appreciated. What is the position of the United States in this matter? England, France, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Russia, Italy, China and Japan together nations are well supplied with valuable aeronautical apparatus, schools of practice, etc., and many have construction plants and experimental divisions working more or less in secret on the construction of power driven airships.

As early as 1884-5 Commandant Reynard, of the aeronautical establishment of the French war department, made five trial trips with La France, on 9 of which he was able to return to the point of departure, and achieved a maximum speed of fourteen miles an hour with an electrical motor of one horse power and a weight of 1,874 pounds. Calculations show that by simply doubling the known dimensions of this craft, its forward lifting power would permit the carrying of a motor of the same proportionate weight—48 pounds per horse power—which would produce a speed of twenty-five miles an hour. According to an item in a report and author by Mr. Gustave Chanute, president of the American Society of Civil Engineers, this velocity may be said to be "in sight."

Reports of private experiments since succeeded indicate that as early as October, 1890, Commandant Reynard was in possession of a motor of seventy horse power, weighing with its boiler supplies, only 360 pounds, or 5.14 pounds per horse power, instead of 48 pounds. With this La France could be driven twenty-eight miles an hour, and an engine of twice its dimensions, 140 pounds, would obtain forty-five miles an hour.

I thus briefly touch the outlines of aerial possibilities and progress. If the American public or government fails to see their significance, other nations are wiser.—Carl E. Myers.

Fat People on a Hot Day.

On one of the hottest hot, soggy afternoons, when every man latest his collar and tried to keep at a distance from him, a prosperity, heavily clothed fat man waddled into an elevated train at the city hall station and pre-empted one of the cross seats. He breathed like a porpoise and mopped his face with a large handkerchief.

Just before the train started a woman, heavy almost beyond description, ecliptose fashion, entered the same car. The car creaked beneath her tread. The passengers were many, and those who enjoyed empty seats wanted her perspiration with a serious glower. But with as great a degree of firmness as Gladstone exhibited and to prevent a marriage, she plunged to the centre of the car and present herself alive into the space beside the fat man.

The fat man looked at her a moment, but she seemed unaware of his regard. Then he heaved himself for a move and got out of his seat. Then the fat woman became aware of his presence.

"Don't move—plenty of room," said she.

"Madam," said he, and his voice was thick and clear, "it's a hot day. I am fat. You are fat. We're got no business to be out where near each other. So you'll excuse me." And he moved away with an imitation of dignity, while the passengers laughed at his Scottish English.

But the fat woman sniffed at her, thought better of it, and as the crowd herself over the entire seat, murmured to a crowded neighbor, "There's some Scotchmen in them, for all of it."—The Point of View in New York Times.

Clouds of Locusts.

The locusts are responsible in Algeria in greater numbers than ever, in spite of the efforts that were made by the French administration last year to annihilate the pests. It is now believed that they come about across the desert from the Soudan. The period of incubation varies from twenty to thirty days, and the locusts require only about two months to attain their complete development. The fact gives a startling view to the prodigious numbers in which the hordes must multiply during the progress across the Sahara. Clouds of the locusts have already been seen on the northern edge of the Soudan, moving their way north. The news comes from Touggurt and Ghardaia in the Sahara that early last year the locusts suddenly appeared in place in such enormous numbers that for four hours they fairly darkened the heavens. About a month before similar clouds of locusts were reported in the valley of the Niger river in the Soudan, and it is believed that in the four succeeding months they had journeyed to the northern part of the Sahara.—New York Sun.

Italy's New Prime Minister.

Signor Giovanni Giolitti, the new Italian premier, is said to be the youngest head of a ministry that Italy has had since Cavour. He is barely fifty years of age, and has only been in parliament ten years. In the caricatures of him in The Don Chisciotte he used to be represented, owing to his being one of the ballast of the deputies, by what might be called a hop pole clad in a long overcoat and very high silk hat. When he was twenty-two he took his degree of doctor of law, and in 1878, when Signor Depretis was in power, he had become director of customs. Signor Crispi made him minister of the treasury in March, 1889, and in November, 1890, minister of finance. A month later Signor Giolitti resigned, owing to a difference with the minister of public works, whose expenditure he wished to cut down. He then helped to bring about the fall of the Crispi cabinet. Signor Giolitti is the leader of the Piedmontese group of the left center.—London News.

Sheep from Persia.

Thirteen sheep and three lambs are on their way consigned to the agricultural department at Washington—a fact that presents considerable interest for the agriculturally minded. They were shipped from Persia, and an attempt is to be made to introduce their breeding into this country.

These sheep are said to be noted for the beauty and richness of their skins, which are the purest astrakhan. As a warm climate is necessary for their comfort, and as they are hardy, they will probably be sent to southern California or to some other warm climate, where their value and adaptability to this country can be determined.—Worcester Spy.

Fruits Attract Them.

Hosts of unemployed men and others seeking temporarily to better their condition are flocking to the Delaware peninsula now to pick small fruits for the markets of Philadelphia and New York. The fruit growers erect rude sheds in the open fields, and here the berry pickers eat and sleep while the season lasts. The earnings of berry pickers are considerably above the average pay of farm hands. Later in the season come the "peach pickers," a race of tramps from all parts of the northern Atlantic states, fraged by the native farmers and hated as competitors by the negro farm laborers.

Said It, and Then He Died.

Bert C. Holder, a prominent young man of Nodaway, Mo., died recently from a sixty grain dose of morphine taken with suicidal intent. Physicians worked over him for seventeen hours without success. Toward the last, while being jolted in a buggy drawn by the two and shaken to keep him awake, he looked up to Judy and muttered, "Oh, what a difference in the morning."—Cor. San Francisco Examiner.

Dog Disease in Florida.

An inspector of the bureau of animal industry from the Dominion of Canada, who was sent to Florida to study the extension into the Dominion of a disease known as Florida dog disease, has reported that the disease is not contagious, and that it is not transmissible to Canada.

Permanent in France get 17 per cent of the gross receipts of each play, and are allowed tickets to the number of five francs for every performance of such plays as they have written.

SEWING AND CARVING

TEACHING BOYS TO PATCH AND GIRLS TO WORK IN WOOD.

A Glance at the Methods Employed in Manual Training Classes—The Boys Feed Their Chickens with Seeds and the Girls Bore Holes with Chisels.

Johnny sewing pantaloons and Susie whittling shingles!

That is the vision of the future which the enemies of manual training behold when the prophecies are fulfilled. For confirmation to prove true to the New York College for the Training of Teachers, where young Americans by hundreds are taught how to use their hands, and learning how to work and when the disciples of this new evangelism are making through grey area to the goal of perfection in wood carving and sewing.

The boys begin their sewing lessons at an early age, one three years old being a member of the younger class. Occasionally a speed of twelve stitches per minute is the acquisition of sewing, as in the case of one little chap who produced a diminutive pair of boots with suspenders. With a needle and stitches on the mind that he "didn't want to be a tailor." He is not alone in his aspiration to be an accomplished tailor, therefore it may be as well to give the point of view of the boys.

It will expressed under the angle phrase, "manual training." It means that there is not any occupation desired by boys that they leave to work. They do not care to accept failure rather at the subsequent more than they wish to make a succession of every effort to succeed. They are thrilled in the first chosen, and by joining to take an equal share of manual training as most useful. They would simply discontinue to employ the time in other ways, and they would soon be bored, and sewing is one only occupation desired for young scholars who have expressed no desire for manual training.

When boys begin to work on the part of the boys who are to begin, there is no spelling arguments which is attempted. The answer comes the child of wisdom and experience. In the case of the needle, the point dawns upon the young mind that it is a tool which will not bend or break.

The other day a number of girls and boys, from the six to nine years of age, were having their sewing lesson in one of the young women's classes. The girls, it appeared, were to make a bag, and the boys were to make a chicken. The girls had their material made out by the teacher, and their teacher was not to be outdone in practical knowledge. They carefully did "sew" a good bag, from a thread, the stitch they called "sewing" which, from the chaos, to their teacher, which was perfectly right, and the boys were to make a chicken, as stated, by a novel method, namely, to thread a needle.

"Teacher" carefully explained a little chicken, and the boys were to make it. The teacher showed how to make a chicken, and the boys were to make it. The teacher showed how to make a chicken, and the boys were to make it. The teacher showed how to make a