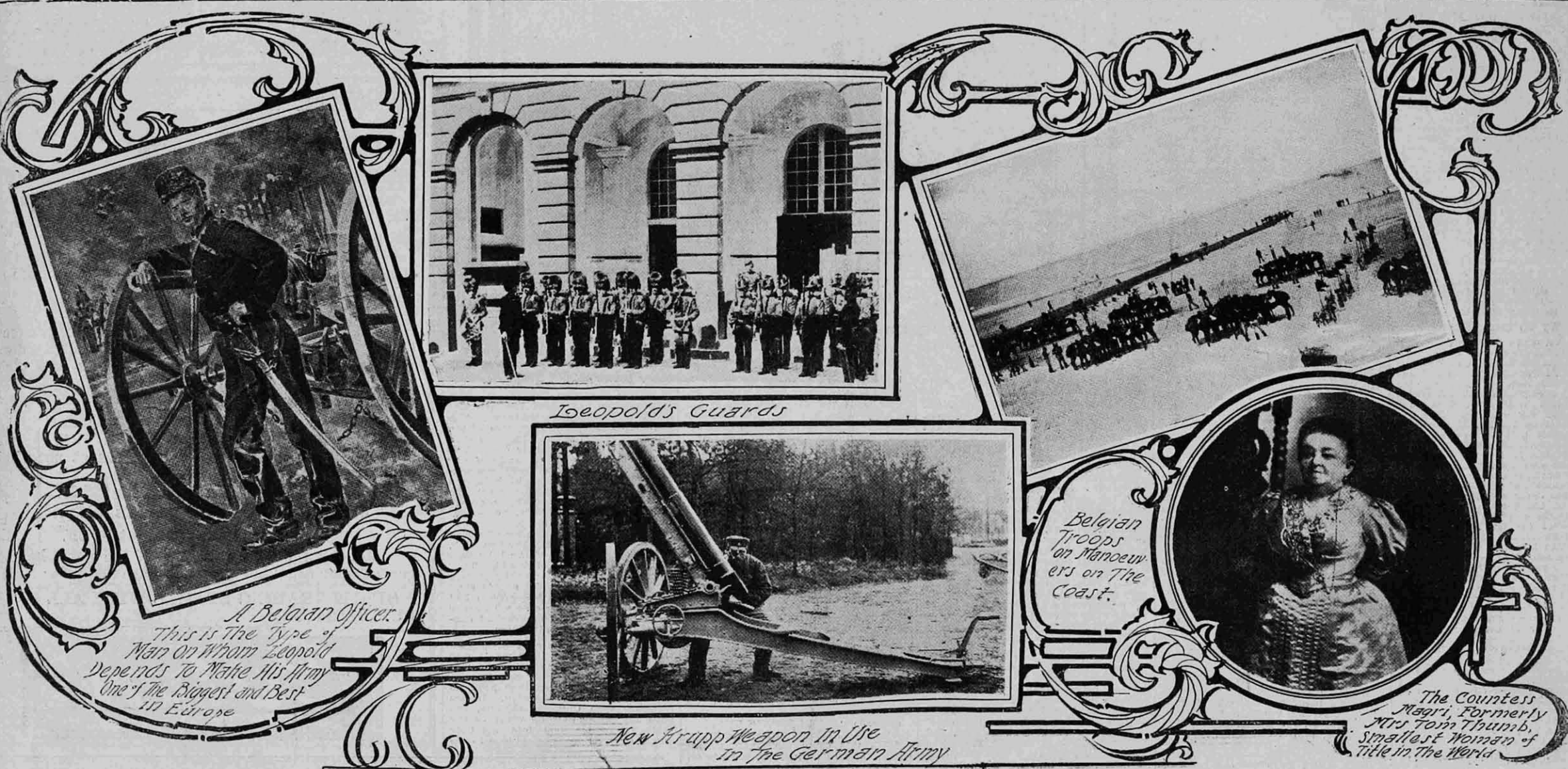


The Saturday "News" Special Foreign Service.



Deadly Guns to Shoot at Airships

(Special Correspondence.)
BERLIN, Nov. 22.—Germany's government has been induced by the wonderful flights accomplished by the Zeppelin, Parseval and Grosse airships to form an air fleet which already numbers six cruisers, but this very success has also awakened the German military authorities to the necessity of improving Germany's artillery with a view to combating hostile air fleets, and, therefore, just as Germany was first in the field with an aerial navy, so she leads the way with balloon artillery. This year both the Krupp and Ehrhardt works have placed balloons on the market. The inventor of balloon artillery had several things to bear in mind. The objective is very mobile, can develop great speed and can change its direction, up or down and to all points of the compass very rapidly and with comparative ease. Therefore the guns had to be capable of the most rapid laying while their projectiles had to be made to travel at a very high velocity. Again, since a scouting airship when nearing the hostile zone will ascend to the greatest height attainable the guns had to be made so as to fire practically perpendicularly to an immense height. It is obvious that the field artillery method of training guns, either by moving the gun round on a fixed pivot on the gun-carriage, or by altering the direction of the carriage, would be out of place here as being too slow. So Krupp, in the case of balloon artillery, mounted on wheels, have designed the wheels so as to be pushed forward out of the way, with handles attached to either axle, which in a couple of simple revolutions can alter the entire direction of the gun. For fortresses the balloon guns can be mounted like other ordnance on a pivot, and the same mounting is used for balloon artillery fired on the platform of armored motor

Dublin Castle's Police Bunco Game on Taxpayers

(Special Correspondence.)
DUBLIN, Nov. 23.—Attention has been focused on the police taxation in Ireland by the refusal of the Galway county council to pay the extra police tax imposed on the county by Mr. Birrell, the chief secretary for Ireland, for the extra police alleged to have been sent into the disturbed districts in the county recently. This system is a delightful illustration of how the country is misgoverned by the English officials. Not only the Royal Irish Constabulary is a national force, paid for out of the national exchequer. Actually it is managed from Dublin castle, but each county has to pay into the exchequer each year a sum for the maintenance of the police supposed to be assigned to duty in that county. Now the way it works is as follows: Mr. Birrell assigns say 200 police to a county and charges it for 200. Actually, however, he finds in practice that 300 are enough to do all the real police work needed and 100 are held in reserve. Then a disturbed condition arises in the county and he drafts in 100 extra men and charges an extra tax against the county for them. The result of this is that these 100 men are paid for three times over. First of all they are charged against the county in the ordinary way but not sent there. Then they are charged against it as extra police and in the third place they are charged against some other county from which they have been drafted for the special duty. In any other country this would be designated a first class bunco game,

United Netherlands is Dream of King Leopold of Belgium.

Exploiter of the Congo Plotting Secretly to Erect a Great European Power on the Union of the Low Countries and Dictate Terms to France, Germany and England.

(Special Correspondence.)
BRUSSELS, Nov. 23.—Belgium, preparing for war, has abandoned the voluntary system of recruiting, and declares for conscription. Henceforward every family in Belgium is to furnish one soldier to the national army, and her forces are to be made twice as large as they need be if nothing more was required of them than defense of Belgian territory. The Dutch are the most immediately concerned in the military affairs of Belgium, and their most intelligent observer, the "Centrum" of the Hague, summed up the situation correctly in saying: "The motor in all this affair is the influence of Leopold II. whose ideal is known. He intends by means of personal and general service to make Belgium a military power. Slowly and surely he is pushing the government along that way."

Belgium's alliance with Holland is one of the chief means by which King Leopold hopes to attain his end. That alliance is of an older date than people know. In 1848, and again in 1855 Belgium and Holland made secret treaties of offense and defense. In 1883, when King Leopold II visited Holland, an open alliance was entered into, and the official organs of each country announced that "the ancient union of the low countries was reconstituted."

many could bring more than 120,000 men into action in Belgium. The army of 200,000 men which Belgium is determined to keep in readiness for mobilization is an army of offense and to it the Dutch army will be joined when war breaks out. His ministers have not been so circumspect. Last summer when Sir Edward Grey made a declaration in the house of commons as to the possibility of Belgium's acting alone for the suppression of the abuses in the Congo, cabinet ministers and ex-ministers in Belgium threw discretion to the wind. It was then I learned the secret meaning of Belgium's military action. "England's threat is terrible," said M. Francotte, ex-minister of industry, to me. "I stand solidly and follow up her threats by action."

Members of the present cabinet spoke in the same strain, and a short time afterwards one of them explained the details of Belgium's plan to me. The Belgian army is to be placed on a peace footing of 40,000 men, while 100,000 are to be kept ready for immediate mobilization. The field strength is never to be allowed to fall below 200,000 men. "An army like this," said he, "will prevent England from attempting to interfere with Belgium's actions regarding her colony, and make her insulate laudable."

mediate mobilization on the frontier, without any of the danger and delay which attend transport. England has, theoretically, an army of 150,000 men available for overseas purposes. That army has to provide, in a great part, for the defense of England's power in India and the colonies, so that its strength is not effective. Lord Roberts declared in his speech in the house of lords on July 12 last that it is wanting in officers, in seasoned men, and in horses, and foreign statesmen knew this before Lord Roberts spoke. The fact that Belgium's continental army, considerable already, soon will be 200,000 strong, while England's military strength, as far as aggression is concerned, remains practically nil explains the fact that as a single government it is on the continent consented to join England against Belgium on the Congo question.

ALL MUST SERVE.
The change in Belgium's military system is not being carried through without political battles in the chambers, but it is accepted willingly by amendment proposed by Count Werner de Merode to be adopted. This allows of the provision of substitutes for military service in peace, but provides that those who supply substitutes must themselves undergo a short training, sufficient to make them serviceable soldiers, and take their places in the ranks when war breaks out. The adoption of this amendment would shorten the term of service for the rich, while adding largely to the military strength of the country in time of war.

Doll-Like Countess the Pet of Paris at Sixty-eight

(Special Correspondence.)
PARIS, Nov. 22.—What childhood has been complete without its romance of fairies, "the little people" of the woods, the mysterious elves, their pranks and their moonlight roamings! The fairy tale of youthful days has taken actual form. The Lilliputian village, now one of the features of Paris life, is a living dream, and as one wanders around this toy-like city with tiny houses, horses no larger than dogs, and coaches that bring to mind the transformation of the pumpkin, and the little people themselves, one feels like a giant, who in his wrath, might crush any one of these midgets with the uplifting of a foot.

Then began a dazzling career for General Tom Thumb and his wife. Perhaps no living celebrity has traveled more miles than this little lady, who is only 33 inches tall. In the 20 years of their married life General Tom Thumb and his wife were the pets of royalty. The late Queen Victoria, whenever they were in England, never failed to give the royal order that they should appear before her and the royal family at Windsor castle. On these eventual occasions all state ceremony was dispensed with and the dignified queen was like an enthusiastic child when entertaining them. Many precious souvenirs remain in the countess's possession as silent witnesses of the good queen's friendship.

When King Edward was Prince of Wales they received a royal mandate to appear at Marlborough House, King Victor Emmanuel, the hero of united Italy, sought their presence, the one-time, beautiful and powerful empress of France, Eugenie, received them with enthusiasm, while the other great European personages of all the empires, "commanded" to meet are the old Emperor Frederick of Germany, Napoleon III and Pope Pius IX.

MEETING WITH LINCOLN.
The countess in her tiny, birdlike voice recounted her first meeting with President Lincoln. Of all the people whom she has met, he is the one who impressed himself most forcibly on her memory. Lincoln gave a reception at the White House in her honor where the members of the cabinet and all the distinguished Washingtonians gathered to pay her homage. At this delightful recollection her eye brightened and a smile of satisfaction overspread her countenance. An instant later a look of gravity came into her face for the association brings up the cruel end of the martyred president. The countess simply answered that before America's greatest tragedy was her ardent friend.

MARRIES ITALIAN COUNT.
Three years after the death of her husband, General Tom Thumb, which occurred 25 years ago, she married an Italian, Count Magri, of Lilliputian fame. He is a most congenial consort for this intelligent little lady, speaking fluently Italian, French and English. Like the majority of Italy's sons he is an enthusiastic devotee of all the arts, music perhaps having the preference.

This doll-like countess, the smallest titled woman in the world, has a most active mind. Her intelligence is very keen and her sense of humor is evident in her conversation.

Some of the questions asked her by the French people cause her no end of amusement, while at other times they are too personal to be really related. One asked her to tell about the smallest man in the world, who was the countess simply answered that it was "Boston." "Is that New York?" the anxious visitor asked.

Thoroughly disheartened the disheveled little woman calmly waved her baby arm and quietly answered—"Yes."

The Countess Magri is a faithful follower of Christian science.

and from its 600 naval officers commanders can be drawn to instruct the Belgian recruits.

The Belgian army has increased to threatening proportions without attracting the attention of the great powers, and the Belgian navy will spring into existence before the powers have time to think about it. When the next war comes, the United Netherlands instead of falling before France or Germany may be found annexing Luxembourg, coercing Belgiums on the continent, even dictating terms to England from behind Antwerp, the loaded and pointed pistol.

JOHN DE COURCY MAC DONNELLA