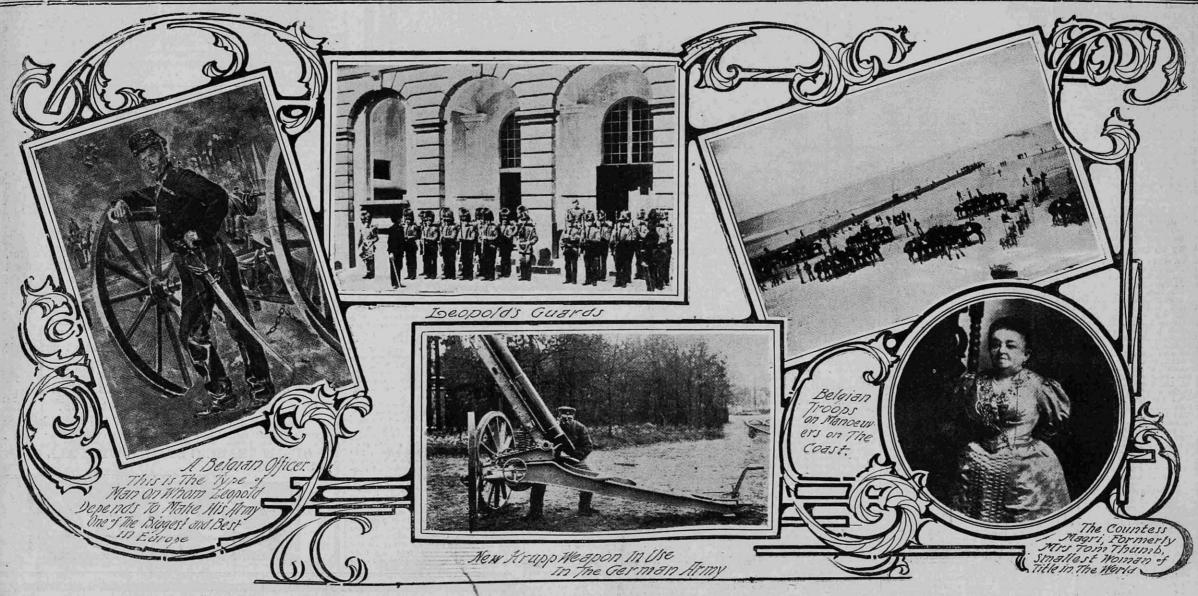
FIFTY-NINTH YEAR

The Saturday "News" Special Foreign Service.



Deadly Guns to Shoot at Airships

BERLIN, Nov. 22.—Germany's government has been induced by the wonderful flights accorately accorately a second sec plished by the Zeppelin, Parseval rosse airships to form an air fleet which already numbers six cruisers the German military authorities to the necessity of improving Germany's artillery with a view to combating hos Germany was first in the field with an aerial navy, so she leads the way with balloon artillery. This year both the

balloon artillery. This year both the Krupp and Ehrhardt works have placed balloon guns on the market.

The inventors 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 alriship when nearing the hostile zone, will ascend to the greatest height attainable the guns mad to be made so as to thre practically perpendicularly to an immense height. It is obvious that the field artillery method of training guns, either by mov-ing the gun round on a fixed pivot on the gun-carriage, or by altering the direction of the carriage, would be out

cars, which would pursue the air cruise until a suitable range is obtained. PROJECTILES DISCUSSED.

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Opinions are still divided as to the nature of projectile to be discharged. For spherical balloons shrapnel is undoubtedly the best but as a cruiser of the Zeppelin type might sustain but little damage from a few shrapnel peliets Krupps. In contrast to Ehrhardts who pin their faith on shrapnel for all types of balloon artillery, have invented a special shell fitted with a slow match which lignites a gas with the object of causing an explosion in the hostile alrship. The shell on striking the alrship's envelope immediately sets fire to the filling gas and the resultant explosion would totally annihilate the aerial vessel. These deadly shells are moreover designed to give off a very dense smoke so as to leave a wake which, with the aid of, a glass, is distinctly visible and of immeasurable importance in sighting for a second shot, supposing the first to have missed. The distance is taken by a special apparatus set up by the side of the balloon gun while the actual sighting is done by means of an apparatus' something similar to the periscope of the submarine.

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field gun, which fires a 4 kilogramme
projectile with an initial velocity of 520
meters a second attaining at a maximum angle of discharge of 60 degrees
a, height of 5.500 meters; a fortress 7.5
gun, firing a 6½ kilogramme shell, and
a heavy gun of 10.5 caliber, primarily
intended for use on board warships.
The fortress gun can hit and destroy
an airship at a height of 7.400 meters
from a discharging angle of 75 degrees
so that as, on the evidence of Count
Zeppelin himself, an airship only in
case of emergency rises to a height of
1,500 meters, the range of the new balleon artillery covers all cases. The
naval gun can reach a height of 11,500
meters.

Dublin Castle's Police Bunco Game on Taxpayers

(Special Correspondence.) UBLIN, Nov. 23,--Attention has been focused on the police tax-ation in Ireland by the refusal of the Galway county council to pay the extra police tax imposed on the coupty by Mr. Birrell, the chief sec retary for Ireland, for the extra police retary 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 bow the country, is misgoverned by the English officials. Nominally 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:

Birrell assigns say 200 police to Mr. Birrell assigns say 200 police to a county and charges it for 200. Actually, however, he finds in practise that 100 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 state 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 come 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,

but in Ireland it has been accepted hitherto as part of the ordinary machinery of government. Now that Galway has taken a firm stand there is some hope that an end may be put to the system. If the dounty council stands firm in its refusal to pay, it is hard to see what Mr. Birçell can do. Perhaps he may attach some of the desks in the county clerk's office, but if he does that it will be necessary for him to defend the system in the courts, and that is probably just what he wants to avoid

MORALS OF PORTADOWN. It is hard to believe that anywhere in Ireland such a first class example of Puritanism could be found as has just Ireland such a first class example of Puritanism could be found as has just been exhibited in Portadown. A few weeks ago the Great Northern Railway company, in response to the request of a large number of residents of the town on the Bann, begin running a late train from Belfast in order to enable the people of Portadown to attend the theater in the northern capital. Now the town council has passed a resolution requesting the railway company to discontinue the late train on the ground that it was "a thing that should not be tolerated in any community with a spar's of Christianity in it." One of the members of the council bore testimony that once in his youth he had attended a theatrical performance but "owing to the scene of tealousy and discord he then witnessed, he had never attended one since."

I have not heart yet whether the railway company has discontinued the late train. If it has not done so I hope it will not delay, for the morals of (Continued on page eighteen.)

(Continued on page eighteen.)

United Netherlands is Dream of Doll-Like Countess the 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.

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

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 treatles of offense and defense. In 1853, when King Leopold II visited Holland, an open alliance was entered linto, and the official organs of each country announced that "the ancient union of the low countries was reconstituted."

FEAR THREE POWERS.

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Fear of Germany, on one side, and of France on the other threw Belgium and Holland into each other's arms. Fear of England, as France's ally has lately come to strengthen their fears and their alliance. Antwerp, which it was formerly thought English troops would garrison for Belgium, in the case of war, is now-being further fortified as a defense against England. It was the theory in Belgium that the country should support an army sufficiently strong to hold an invader in check until the great powers who guaranteed her independence had time to come to her rescue. While this theory prevailed, an army of 97,000 men was thought to be sufficient, and at the one moment when invasion threatened, 1870, such an army was found to be sufficient Since 1870 the number of men required to defend any threatened, 1870, such an army was found to be sufficient Since 1870 the number of men required to defend any given area has been greatly reduced, owing to the improvement in modern firearms. At Gravelotte, the French army 150,000 strong covered 16,000 yards, while the German army of 360,000 men was spread-over a line of 22,000 yards. This represented practically 10 meh per yard for the defendants, and 18 per running yard for the assailants. In the Russian-Japanese war the densities of the combatant forces varied respectively from 4 and 4.2 men to 25 and 2.4 men per yard, and In the Boer war the density was still less. Notwithstanding the fact thus proved, the strength of the Beiglan army has been continually increased since 1870, when it was 90,000. It is 173,000 today. When the new army law is in force it will be 209,000, on paper, and there are indications that its real strength will be considerably greater.

"The political destinies of the two countries are bound together indis-solubly," he said, "A military conven-tion between, them is in the logical order of things. One cannot imagine Belgium free without Holland being free also."

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The Dutch can put about 60,000 soldiers in the field at present. The plan of Belgium and Holland united-again I quote M. Becrnaert—is, when war breaks out to mobilize their forces on the French and German frontiers from Dinant to Maestrict "Eighty thousand Belgians and 40,000 Dutch would make the belligerents respect our territories," said the Belgian statesmen, and, he added with significance, "the mobilization of these troops would not prevent us from defending Antwerp."

THREATS IN THE AIR.

Although the plan of forming a great army of offense originated with King Leopold, he took good care never to speak of offense, but always to confine himself to questions of defense, when the treated of military affairs. 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 England'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.

in Belgium threw discretion to the wind. It was then I learned the secret meaning of Belgium's military action. "England's threat is terribit." said Mr. Francotte, ex-minister of industry, to me, "but England will find Belgium can threaten also, 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 standing of 42,000 men, while eight classes of men, robust, and well drilled, 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 insults laughable."

RELATIVE STRENGTHS.

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THE MATHEMATICS OF WAR.

The extent of front between the fortified positions at Antwerp, Namur, and Liege, is from 20 to 25 miles. An army of 109,000 men would be sufficient to defend it. Under modern conditions neither France nor Ger.

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 readlness for mobilization is an army of offense and to it the Dutch army will be joined when war breaks out.

Ambition, as much as the fear of powerful neighbors, has forced the Belgian ruler on. By means of Belgian industry and Congo gold he is determined to reestablish the power of the low countries. M. Beernaert, the great statesman who was twice prime minister of Belgium recently declared that when war broke out the Dutch and Belgian armies would be found side by side.

"The political destinies of the two countries are bound together indispendent of the countries are bound together indispendent of the countries are bound together indispendent of the danger and delay without any of the danger and select transport. England has, theoretically, an army of 150,000 men to it without any of the danger and delay without any of the danger and tell yn the danger and tell cerned, remains practically nil explains the fact that not a single government on the continent consented to join Eng-land against Belgium on the Congo question.

ALL MUST SERVE.

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The change in Beigium's military system is not being carried through without political battles in the chambers, but it is accepted willingly by the country. It is welcomed as abolishing the suspense which attended the old system, of the army, ballot, which took place every year to supply the deficiency of volunteers. About 66,000 youths took part in the ballot every year. Under the new system no more than 26,000 families will, be called on annually, each to supply a recruit of its own choice. Of the recruits, so supplied 10,000 will be exempted from service, annually, for one reason or supplied 10,000 will be exempted from service, annually, for one reason or another. Under the old system, those who drew "bad numbers" in the ballot could buy substitutes. In the future each family's representative must serve; but it is probable the amendment proposed by Count Werner de Merode will 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 scryce for the rich, while adding largely to the military strength of the country in time of war.

BELGIUM'S AMBITIONS.

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The fact is that Belgium intends to become a great kingdom, instead of remaining a small buffer state existing on suffrance. Having a strong army, a great port and fortress, at Antwdrp, and rich preserves of gold, all she and rich preserves of gold, all she needs to attain her end is a powerful feet. That fleet her alliance with Hol-land will enable her to create. Neith-er the money nor the consent of the chambers is wanting for its construc-

thanners is waster to the control of money was to be found for struction of the fleet. He re

COLONIAL AMBITIONS.

"We have 70 miles of coast," said the king, "and Antwerp could be the port of the continent. The necessity of Belgian ships is recognized. The

Pet of Paris at Sixty-eight

has been complete without its romance of fairies, "the little terious 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 toylike city with tiny houses, horses no larger than dogs, and coaches that 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.

mites is undisputedly the Countess Magri, or, as she is more generally known by the public, Mrs. General Tom Thumb.

This little woman is today, after 51 This little woman is today, after of years of life behind the footlights, charming the Parisian public and the hordes of tourists from all countries by her sweetness of manner and natural charms. Just as in the days of our mothers and grandmothers, the celebrated Lilliputian, who has reached the age of 68, is as marvelous as ever. Age seems to have touched this lovable little creature very lightly. Her hair still retains its dark brown color, and although she is stouter than she was, her buoyancy and sprightliness of step are those of a young woman or rather of a child.

The clever Yankee showman, P. T. Barnum, first discovered her and immediately engaged her to appear at the old American, Museum in New York. At that time she was known by her maiden manne—Lavinia Warren. So great was her success that the willy Barnum grasped the, situation and realized-that the "little fairies" would be one of his strongest features. After a prolonged and painstaking search for others, he found the midget, Charles Stratton, and engaged him for the American museum. years of life behind the footlights,

WONDERFUL PRESENTS.

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The professional acquaintance of these two little people soon took a more tender form. Cupid, ever on the alert for fresh victims, did not hesitate to entrap these two tiny hearts in his net and his effective work culminated in a marriage which occurred in 1862. Rich citizens yied with each other in showing their appreciation of this wonderful little couple by presenting them with the most miscellaneous assortment of gifts. A sewing machine, perfect in every detail, one and a half feet in height, was given to Mrs. General Tom Thumb by a well-known manufacturer. Then there were a piano no higher than the seat of a chair, the keys of which were about the size of a blade in a small penknife and with the full number of octaves; chairs, beds, etc., all made of the choicest wood and upholstered in the finest satins, resembling furniture fit for the ordinary doll.

MEETING WITH LINCOLN

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The countess in her tiny, birdlike voice recounts 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 brightens and a smile of satisfaction overspreads her countenance. An instant later a look of gravity comes into her face for the association brings up the cruel ending of the martyred president. The assassin: J. Wilkes Booth, before America's greatest tragedy was her ardent friend.

MARRIES ITALIAN COUNT.

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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 consert 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 relished. One eager and solicitous Frenchwoman asked her where she was born. Realizing that in all probability the questioner would not understand where her

"Boston" "Is that New York?" the anxious visitor asked.
Thoroughly disheartened the dismayed little woman calmly waved her baby arm and quietly answered—"Yes."
The Countess Magri is a faithful follower of Christian science.

ritories in the Congo to the creators of Belgian shipping?"

Here the truth was out. The Belgian fleet is to be created with Congo gold. Holland will supply the nucleus of the fleet. That country has already a navy consisting of eight battleships, seven cruisers, some gunboats, and nearly 50 torpedo boats. It has, what Belgian most lacks a race of skilful and daring sallors. Nearly 9,000 men man its

diplomacy of the great powers is strong and influential, because fleets and armies, which we have not, are behind it. We must create colonies and exploit mines the revenues of which will provide us with the indispensable means. Why should we not grant territories in the Congo to the creators of Belgian shipping?"

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