

exercises with the maximum of speed and accuracy, to handle a company of soldiers, to command a skirmish drill, to obey the harsh orders without a murmur, and he must take a fashionable debilitant's pride in his figure and carriage and become familiar with all the rule of social etiquette.

The United States government is intent on making West Point the greatest military training school in the world, and some authorities claim that it has already won this distinction. Recent improvements greatly add to the academy's possibilities, and now it is planned to supplement it with a preparatory school to be located on Constitution island, fifty miles from New York city, in the Hudson river. Such a school would give much needed aid to many candidates for admission to the academy, for the course of instruction would be peculiarly and particularly arranged to meet the special requirements of entrants at the academy.

The sum of about \$6,000,000 is being spent on improvements at West Point. Elihu Root when secretary of war originated a policy of expanding and modernizing the establishment, and William H. Taft and General Wright have continued along the same lines. Two million dollars more are wanted to bring up the entire plant of the academy to the standard deemed necessary by the authorities. Situated in a spot of natural beauty excelled in few places in this country or any other, amid the green covered hills and winding crystal waters of the Hudson valley, West Point, when the improvements are completed, will present an appearance of actual grandeur. Some of the improvements, several already completed, and their cost are as follows:

For the new cadet barracks the cost is estimated at \$275,000; power house, \$600,000; cavalry and artillery barracks, \$404,000; post headquarters, \$500,000; chapel, \$300,000; hotel, \$300,000; bachelor officers' quarters, \$100,000; riding hall, \$695,000; academic building, \$600,000; gymnasium, \$300,000; cadet headquarters, \$275,000; increase of water supply, \$400,000.

In connection with these features it was thought wise to develop the forest lands of the reservation in accordance with the latest ideas of forestry. The former superintendent, Colonel Mills, called the attention of the forestry authorities at Washington to the subject, and Gifford Pinchot, the government forester, at once approved the suggestion.

He sent two of his best men to look the ground over, and then Professor Roy L. Marston of the Yale school of forestry and sixteen students went to make a detailed examination of the place and draw up a scheme for improving the lands. There are 2,128 acres of forest on the West Point land, mostly of hard wood, 95 per cent of which is of sprout origin. Some of the trees are 140 years old.

It has been estimated that the entire scheme of regeneration will not be completed until 1912.

Increased attention is now given to horsemanship at West Point. When Prince Henry of Prussia attended an exhibition on the parade ground during his well remembered visit to America he watched the evolutions of the cadet horsemen with particular interest and enthusiastically exclaimed: "This drill has shown me conclusively that the American cavalrymen are the best in the world. In all my experience I have never seen their equals, much less their superiors."

JOHN H. SIMMONS.

AN old army officer at Fort Myer when he picked up the newspapers and read about the latest hazing escapade at the government military academy at West Point gave a broad grin and said, "Well, I guess those cadets are the same today as they were thirty years ago—loyal to their country and hard workers, yet when they wax playful they would make a band of Geronimo's apaches look like tame lambs on the greensward in comparison."

The recent West Point hazing episode, in which eight cadets were the central figures, resulted in a most serious imbroglio, involving President Roosevelt, Secretary of War Luke E. Wright and Mr. Loeb, the president's private secretary. The developments

created a national sensation, along different lines, however, from the unfortunate Cadet Booz case in 1900, and the octet of guilty cadets were unanimous in wishing that they had essayed the peaceful career of gentleman farmer in some quiet valley instead of having become entangled in West Point's allurement and inspired by the glories of a soldier's life. After all, it isn't any summer fest to have the president of the United States, the secretary of war and all the newspapers of a nation on your track when you are really "caught with the goods" on in a serious hazing party. These eight cadets were William T. Rossell, Jr., honor man of the first class, a son of Lieutenant Colonel W. T. Rossell, corps of engineers, U. S. A.; Harry G. Weaver, first class, Illinois; George

Washington Chase, Jr., third class, New York; James A. Gillispie, third class, Pennsylvania; Byron Quimby Jones, third class, New York; William Nalle, Jr., third class, Virginia; William Wellington Prude, third class, Alabama, and Isaac Spalding, third class, Oklahoma.

Well known army officers agree that cruades of the past and those of the future against hazing will have little effect in putting a stop to hazing at West Point. They state that no matter how severe the punishment of suspected offenders, the delights of making "plebes" gather hundreds of white ants and guard them for hours to prevent a single one from escaping, or of forcing them to stand on their heads in buckets of water, or to swallow a tablespoonful of tabasco sauce and

smile pleasantly, or deliver a sermon at a rat funeral, or allow their bodies to be covered with melted wax, or stay tied to a stake all night out in a pouring rain, will never be relinquished by the older cadets.

Life at West Point would to the observer seem so full of incident as to leave little time for hazing. The course through which a young man must go to become a full fledged officer is exacting and arduous, though varied. The cadet must learn to handle sixteen inch guns, ride mules and bucking bronchos, to mount or to assemble a mountain battery (carried on horse or mule back), to drill for hours under a merciless sun, to stand guard in pouring rain or driving sleet or snow, and withal he must learn to dance.

He must learn to execute gun drill

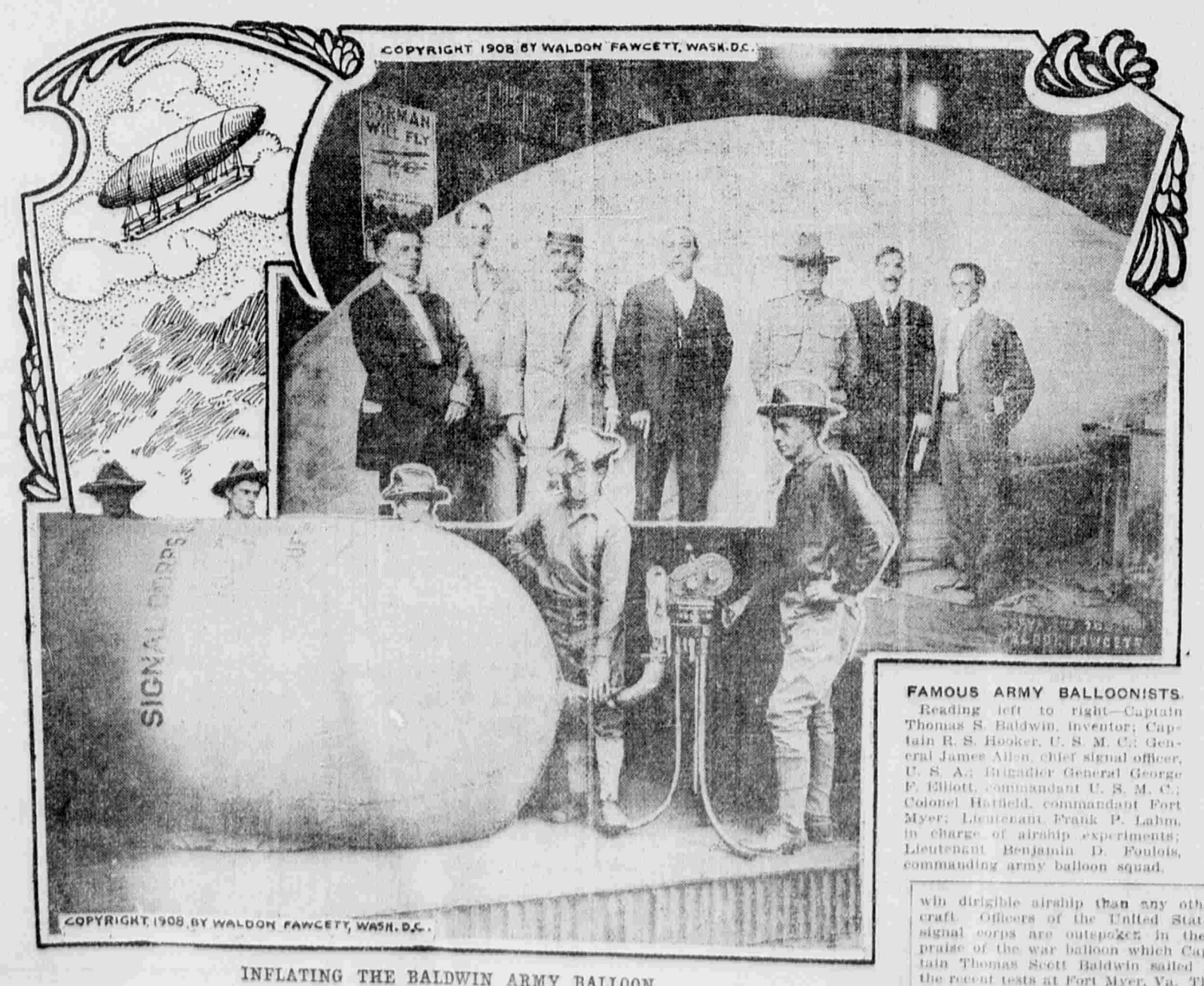
# Building the Aerial War Fleet of the United States; Soldiers of the Future Will Fight Above the Clouds

THE dictators of the United States army's activity have come to the conclusion, and apparently a wise one, that this country's forces should no longer all far behind those of Germany, France, Great Britain, Japan and other nations in the development of the use of balloons as war agents. It is calculated in Washington that if the recent plans are carried into effect the United States will in three years' time at the outside outstrip by long odds the balloon experts and aerial stunts of any other country.

Now that aerial experimentation is all under way in a thoroughly organized manner, under the direction of the leading officers of the United States signal corps, and a trained balloon corps has been originated, it will be appealed to in no uncertain manner during the next session, asked by the secretary of war, General Luke E. Wright, the signal corps reports will appear before the proper congressional committees and explain at \$10,000,000 will be needed during the next three or four years to further the work and that no less than \$1,000,000 must be had this year if experiments are to be successfully continued. Present indications are that balloonists will get the first million without great difficulty.

That the next big war will be largely fought in the air or at least marked extended use of air craft for observation and attacking purposes is not doubted by any well informed person. The Hague peace conference has recognized this and endeavored to effect a general international agreement to the effect that the use of balloons for the purpose of firing explosives on enemies be prohibited. But only two or three nations signed the document and it is practically useless, for the nations according to international law are bound only to refrain from such a use of balloons when engaged with another signer of the document and not when fighting a nation at did not sign. Consequently the awakening of the United States is decidedly fortunate, and much of the credit should be given to Lieutenant P. Lahn, who returned to America after observing conditions abroad and persuaded the war department to bestir itself in aviation.

Now the government authorities are more deeply interested in the Baldwin



and returned to his starting point without accident. At all times he had perfect control of the craft and executed several intricate maneuvers for the edification of the spectators. Captain Baldwin could sail over the government buildings in Washington and drop enough dynamite to blow the capital completely out of existence if he so desired.

Captain Baldwin has exhibited aerial craft before a dozen kings and queens. Even in India, Siam and Egypt his skillful ascents have been witnessed, and his escapes from death by narrow margins are too numerous for him to recall all. On one occasion he started from Denver to whirl over the Rocky mountains. He was caught in a severe storm. The gas bag soon became swamped with sleet and snow. It swooped up over Pike's peak, for above the highest point, and for fourteen hours he was up 14,000 feet in biting cold that almost froze him to death.

The successful flights of his airship, the California Arrow, at the St. Louis world's fair in 1904 brought him his more recent fame as a successful aeronaut. On top of this came his even greater success with the new California Arrow during the races last October at St. Louis.

Captain Baldwin says that the original discoverer of the balloon lived hundreds of years ago and that he died without knowing what he had discovered. He states that in an old parchment manuscript in Siam he read of a native who had an ostrich egg. He boiled a little bit in the egg and drained its contents. Then he placed the egg on the hot sand, hole downward, and watched to see what would happen. In a short time the egg became very hot. The air inside expanded, and finally the shell, owing to the hot air inside, rose from the ground and floated away in the air.

The present United States balloon squad is but the nucleus of what will become a large, representative organization. The plan to establish army balloon stations at various points on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and inland will necessitate having a large number of experts. The squad had its origin through the sentiment aroused by Lieutenant Lahn, who as a young American made the European aviators gasp with astonishment at his exploits abroad. He won one of the Gordon Bennett aerial races, crossing the English channel at night and finishing himself on the bank for the cruel treatment of his son.

Asked by the magistrate recently how often her husband assaulted her a woman replied: "Not very often. Only three or four days a week."

Elephants have only eight teeth. All young elephants' teeth fall out when the animal is about fourteen years old and a new set grows.

In a country house a cat was recently observed, to the great consternation of a feminine occupant, dragging a large live snake into a room. The reptile was between two and four feet long. A neighbor dispatched a H. H.

thirty-three miles ahead of his nearest competitor.

The outcome of the interest thus aroused in America over Lahn's agitation of the subject was the issuance of an order creating the aeronautical division of the signal corps. It was arranged to get out of storage the several balloons of foreign make which had been purchased by the United States in the Spanish war and had been in storage ever since, and it was decided that the headquarters of the new activities should be at a balloon house at Fort Myer, Va., just across the Potomac from Washington, where the progress of the innovation could be closely watched by the administrative officials of the war department. Best of all, it was arranged that Lieutenant Lahn should return from France to assume the personal direction of aeronautics, and other officers, notably Captain Chandler and Lieutenant Stridger of the signal corps, prepared to make balloon a specialty.

The order creating the aeronautical division of the army was issued Aug. 1, 1907, and the balloon squad, which now gives so much promise of effective work, was created with a membership of a sole individual, Sergeant Edward Ward, who is now at the head of the little body of professional balloonists.

Such is the fascination of the work that there have been very few changes in the personnel of the squad since its organization, and the roster now comprises Sergeant Edward Ward, who enlisted from Kentucky; Corporal Stewart K. Rosenberger of Philadelphia; Charles de Kina of New York; William E. McConnell of Georgia; Cecil R. Cole of Philadelphia; Edward O. Eldred of Denver; Benjamin Schmidt of Illinois; Vernon L. Burge of Illinois; James Miller of Canton, O.; and Frederick Ulrich of Illinois.

Balloons have been used in war since as early as 1799, and in the French revolution they attracted wide attention. The Russians used one at Sebastopol.

In our civil war the Union army used many of them, and a regular balloon staff was connected with McClellan's army. In the siege of Vicksburg a total of sixty-four balloons were sent out of the beleaguered city. Two of them were blown out to sea, and their occupants were never heard of.

A. C. HEDGES.

**A FEW INTERESTING FACTS.**

When the herring fishing season is its height something like 5,000 miles nets are set nightly in the North Atlantic.

Rubber stamps is made of fine dye mixed with glycerin. The ink can be obtained at druggists' shops.

The new Duke of Devonshire when comes to take the necessary letters

Miss Kathleen Gentry, on whom they fell, went through a marriage ceremony. The couple are now petitioning for a divorce on the ground that the marriage was only a joke.

At the last harvest thanksgiving service at the village of Pomeroy, in Dorset, England, a string of mackerel was suspended across the church.

It was an unlucky day for Samuel Wallace when, after an absence of

twenty years, he returned to Watford, England, for at the petty sessions the other day he was fined \$50 and costs for assaulting a police constable in 1886.

As a result of keen competition a New York tailor has decided to keep his establishment open day and night. He will employ three shifts of men.

Dashing into the signal box at Connelville station, Pennsylvania, a little yellow dog, which was believed to be

mad, so terrified the officials that they fled from the station in a body. In consequence of the signals being left unattended traffic was held up for nearly five hours.

An employee of the Bank of Brussels, whose son was sentenced a year ago to three years' imprisonment for stealing from the bank, has disappeared, taking with him \$70,000. He left a note for the manager of the bank stating that he took the money to revenge

himself on the bank for the cruel treatment of his son.

Asked by the magistrate recently how often her husband assaulted her a woman replied: "Not very often. Only three or four days a week."

Elephants have only eight teeth. All young elephants' teeth fall out when the animal is about fourteen years old and a new set grows.

In a country house a cat was recently observed, to the great consternation of a feminine occupant,

dragging a large live snake into a room. The reptile was between two and four feet long. A neighbor dispatched a H. H.

At Rio de Janeiro an expert Chilean marksman attempting to shoot an apple from the head of a man missed his mark and killed the apple bearer outright. The marksman only just escaped lynching at the hands of the circus crowd.