

Expiration of Prohibition Against Aerial Explosives, And the Revival of the Balloon-Fire Discussion

ON the 29th day of July one of the prohibitions agreed to by the signatories of the Hague peace conference at The Hague will expire by limitation. It was the promise by these delegates from all the civilized states in the world to abstain for a period of five years from the employment of projectiles or explosives dropped from balloons. It is well understood in military circles that this agreement was most eagerly accepted by the delegates, disinterested to some of the delegates, experiments conducted with extreme caution had been going on for many years in certain quarters, and the time was almost ripe for an outcome that would revolutionize modern warfare and relegate the murderous lightning and the murderous lightning to the machines of the present time to the museums and junk shops. Five years seemed a long time to postpone the launching of this new destructive agency, but it was during the full before the coming storm, and peaceful sentiments dominated at Holland's capital; there was an apparent eagerness to soften the hardships of war, and to all who were not directly interested in aerial destroyers the idea was as repulsive as it was chimerical.

The prohibition, however, did not discourage experimentation. The tremendous strides made in the development of explosives during the short period of interdiction have added powerfully to the aerial monster's possibilities. The recent successes of various airship builders have also contributed greatly to popular interest in the subject. At the present time there is no matter of more moment to the military and naval experts of all nations than the development of the aerial man-of-war, they feel that the employment of offensive airships in war would result in the speedy disarmament of the nations.

There is little doubt that the innovation when it comes will necessitate a new education in the science of war. Who is prepared to resist successfully a shower of steel enveloped explosives which fall from the region whence heretofore only snow or rain has come? This is the question which must be answered in order to cope with the coming airship. When the situation arrives it will be without parallel in the history of mankind.

Now that the restriction is removed, now that men may ascend to any height and let fall death dealing agents upon their helpless enemies beneath, now that Santos-Dumont, Spencer, Lebaudy and others have made it certain that airships may be controlled and especially now that the necessary explosives are available, it is evident that the days of war as our fathers knew it are numbered. It is already announced that Japan is ready to make a trial of the new method and is provided with a supply of the most approved aerial men-of-war. Russian agents, also, have been purchasing as many dirigible airships as they could find in the market. Most of these balloons are marvels of construction.

They will sail as they are steered, as surely as a ship obeys her rudder, and the introduction of powerful engines of small weight makes them comparatively

But incalculable damage could be inflicted by such a machine on the enemy beneath. It would not be necessary to lose any time in a search for a range for its projectiles. All that would be required would be to calculate with reasonable accuracy the amount of wind

mythology, might follow and cut off all chance of safety. As an indication that the possibilities of the airship as a fighting agent are fully recognized by men who are qualified to express an opinion it may be mentioned that as soon as Sir Hiram

not to be accomplished from the surface of the earth, the question of warfare conducted by opposing aerial navies will assume importance. In the case of Japan and Russia it would scarcely serve the purpose of either to conduct a one sided aerial campaign.

While the Japanese fliers were doing irreparable injury to the Muscovites the Russian aerial fleet might be engaged in obliterating the island kingdom. Confronting the destroyer with another of its kind at an equal elevation is thus far the only plan which seems feasible. If Japan sends her fleet of aerial warships to strew explosive projectiles and combustibles upon the Russian armies in the field, it will be necessary for the Muscovites to dispatch their airships to combat their enemies in the open skies. It is not at all unlikely that the spectacle of a triple engagement on land, at sea and in midair may be witnessed during the lifetime of many persons now living.

Santos-Dumont in his recent book, "My Airship," maintains that the new flier will furnish an effective defense against the submarine boat. He writes: "Thus, very curiously, the twentieth century airship must become from the beginning the great enemy of that other twentieth century marvel, the submarine boat, and not only its enemy, but its master, for, while the submarine boat can do no injury to the airship, the latter, having twice its speed, can cruise about to find it, watch all its movements and signal them to the warships against which it is moving."

"Indeed, it may be able to destroy the submarine boat by sending down to it long arrows filled with dynamite and capable of penetrating to depths underneath the waves impossible to gunnery from the decks of a warship."

In its recent report to the war department of the test of submarines the board said of the Fulton:

"The boat shows great superiority over any existing means of attacking mine fields. It can run by any field as installed at present with but little danger from the explosion of any particular mine or from the gun fire during the few minutes it is exposed and can attack at its pleasure any vessel in the harbor."

Now, it is against just such operations as these that the airship could be used to advantage. It is evident that the aerial warship will be able to neutralize the damage which the submarine of the present day is certainly qualified to inflict.

ROGER P. BARNUM.

LORIMER'S STORY.

Wright Lorimer, whose production of "The Shepherd King" was one of the features of the season in New York, tells an amusing story of a visit to a friend's house in England.

"I was making an unexpected call on a friend of mine whom I had not seen in years," said Mr. Lorimer. "When the servant came to the door I asked if Mr. Arbutnot was in."

"Master has gone out," was the reply. "Is Mrs. Arbutnot in?"

"Missus has gone out too."

"Well, I think I'll come in and warm by the fire before I start back to London."

"You're welcome to come in, sir," said the servant, "but the fire's gone out too."

THE RAPID RISE OF A LUCKY STENOGRAPHER.

George Bruce Cortelyou, the new chairman of the Republican national committee, is a remarkable example of a rapid rise to eminence from a comparatively humble beginning. A few years ago he was President Cleveland's stenographer. He proved himself to



GEORGE BRUCE CORTELYOU.

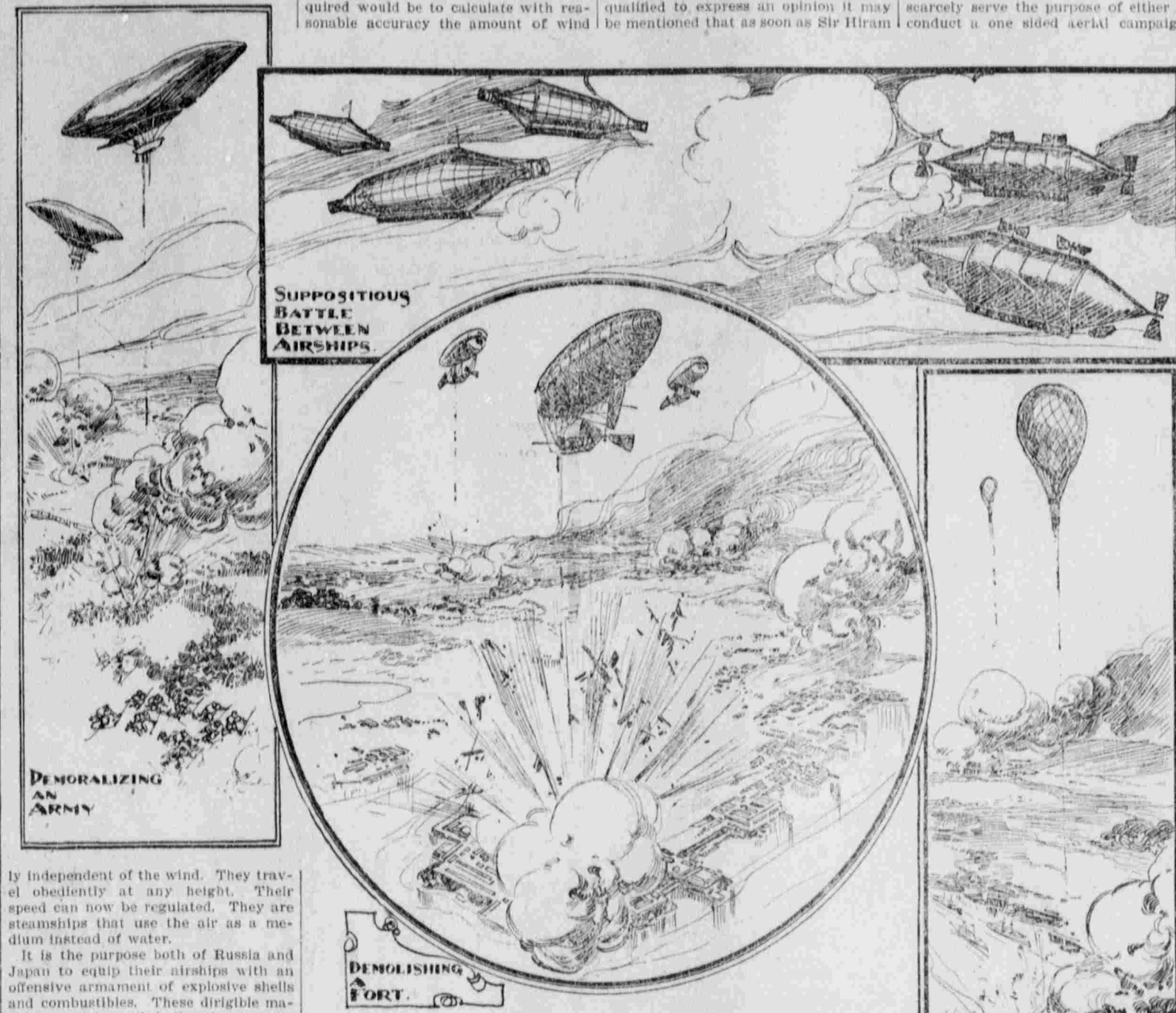
be so efficient in this position that he was retained by the succeeding administration. Mr. McKinley, however, made him his private secretary. When Mr. Roosevelt succeeded, Mr. Cortelyou's services were still in demand at the White House. At the creation of the new department of labor and commerce he was made its chief, and has administered its duties with much satisfaction to the president and the leaders of the party.

ROYALTY AND PHOTOGRAPHY.

Photography has long been a favorite pursuit with many well known people in society. The queen of England and her daughter take excellent photographs. Princess Victoria of Sleswick-Holstein is also an expert with the camera, and her aunt, Princess Beatrice, has many albums full of the photographs she and her sons have taken. Undoubtedly the best amateur photographer, if he may so be called now, is Baron de Meyer, but he has so many clients that he has been forced to take studios, where he is able to attend to his work better than at home. One of the finest specimens of Baron de Meyer's workmanship is a portrait of the king.

THE BIGGEST PORTS.

Antwerp, according to an official return recently published by the department of commerce and labor at Washington, stands third on the list of the world's ports with a total tonnage of 16,721,011 tons entered and cleared. London is first with a total tonnage of 17,544,108 tons, and New York the second port in the world, with a total of 17,395,055 tons. These figures refer to seagoing traffic only.



THE POSSIBILITIES OF AERIAL WAR MACHINES.

ly independent of the wind. They travel obediently at any height. Their speed can now be regulated. They are steamships that use the air as a medium instead of water.

It is the purpose both of Russia and Japan to equip their airships with an offensive armament of explosive shells and combustibles. These dirigible machines will be sailed directly over the point of attack. They will be kept at a height that will put them beyond the range of ordnance. As at present constructed, there is no gun that could be adjusted at such an angle as to give its projectiles a range sufficient to reach one of these balloons. Consequently a military airship steered to a point above an enemy would have nothing to fear from anything projected from below.

Maxim began the construction of a war aeroplane his brother Hudson at once commenced to experiment on a gun to demolish that flying fortress. Neither flier nor gun was a success, but it indicates that the aerial warship when it comes will be followed by its appropriate destroyer. When it is made certain that resistance to the airship is



SINKING A SUBMARINE.

A Whole Week's Harvest of Interesting Pictures Gathered by Clever Artists From Far and Near

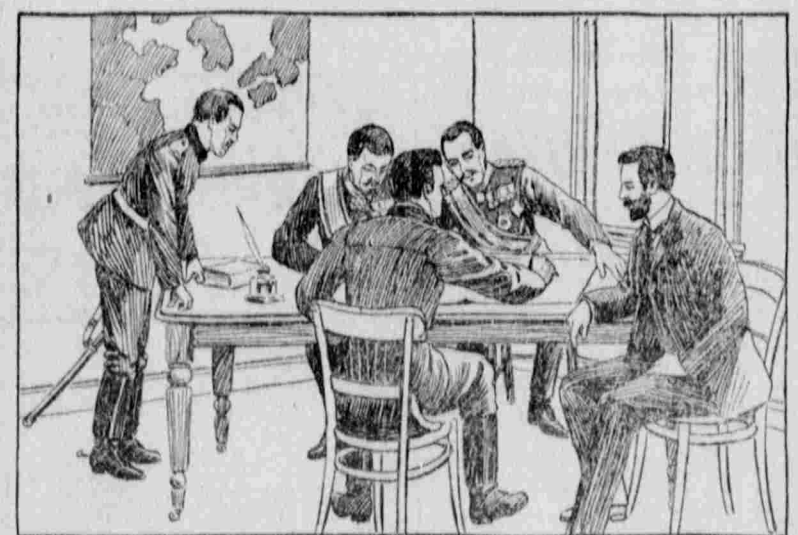
A LAPLAND COTTAGE.

The Lapland dwelling herewith represented is a fair sample of the houses in this far northern region. They are built of wood on a rough stone foundation, and their architecture is about a



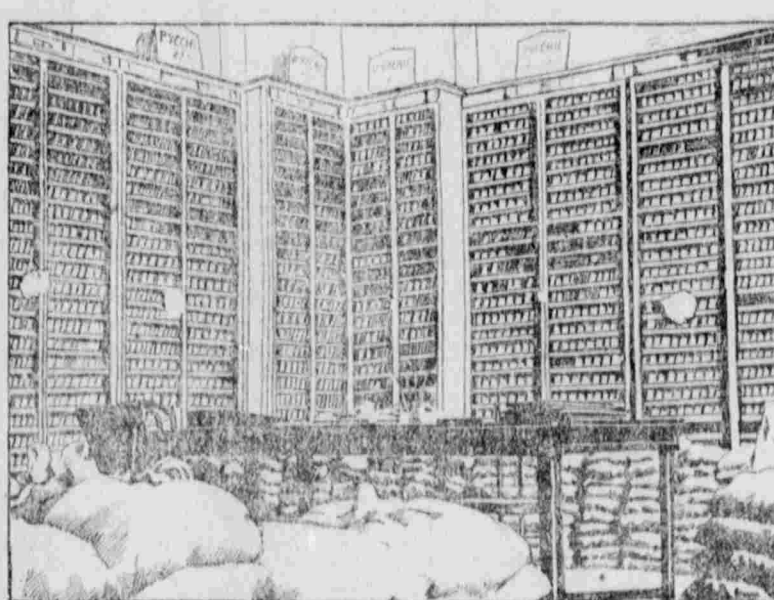
thousand years behind the times. Lapland houses usually contain but one room and are not provided with chimneys. To shut out the bitter cold of the long arctic winter the walls are made hollow, and the interspaces are filled with mud. There are no windows in these huts, and the sole opening is a low doorway, which is covered by reindeer skins.

WAR CORRESPONDENTS SEEKING PERMISSION TO ACCOMPANY JAPANESE ARMIES.



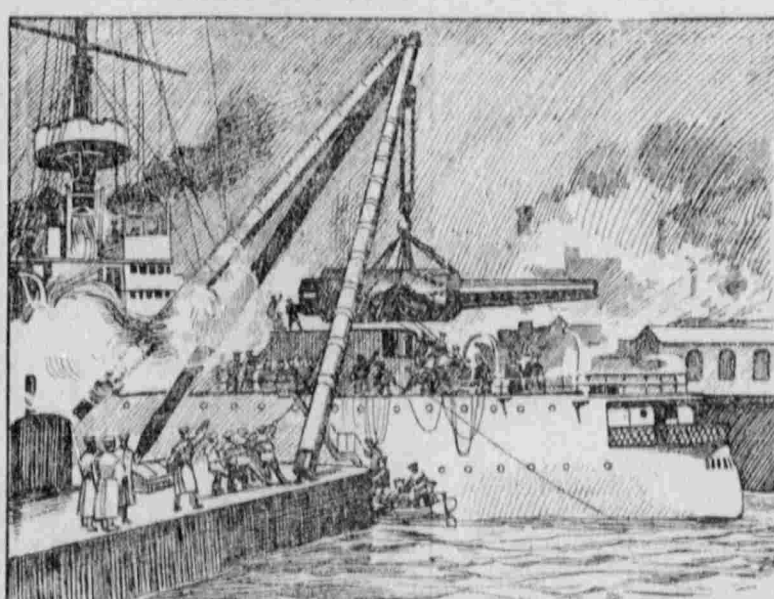
In most cases the war correspondent has to contend with obstacles which would seem almost insurmountable to the average man engaged in a peaceful pursuit. Nearly always the very information which he would give much to possess is that which is kept most zealously from him. Generally he is an object of suspicion, as officers of the army to which he is attached object to what they consider his prying methods. Often it is difficult to obtain permission to visit certain localities. A group of correspondents at Tokyo is herewith depicted endeavoring to gain the desired permits.

WHERE RUSSIA'S GOLD RESERVE IS KEPT.



The strong rooms of the Bank of Russia at St. Petersburg contain gold in ingots and coin to the amount of \$500,000,000. The ingots are ranged on shelves in cabinets which reach from floor to ceiling, and the coin, in stout chamois bags, is piled table high around the sides of the room. This aggregation of specie is the reserve fund which is intended to keep the empire's credit unimpaired. Only a small part of it can be diverted to war purposes. If this were not the case it would not be long before the Russian treasury would feel the strain, for the expense of conducting a war in these days is a tremendous drain on the resources of any nation. Russia's finances, even with this great specie reserve, are not in a satisfactory condition.

LOADING A BIG GUN.



The picture is a graphic illustration of the loading of a big gun. The particular instance is the arming of the Russian battleship Khas Souvaroff. The twelve inch guns are put in place by mighty derricks. The ships now being completed at the yards lately extemporized by the Russian admiralty at the mouth of the Neva river will form a part of the Baltic squadron. All the shipbuilding yards in Russia are in a state of great activity. Work is going on day and night, and workmen are being sought in all the shipbuilding centers of Europe. Several battleships of the Khas type are approaching completion, and many others are in various stages of construction.

THE WORLD'S TALLEST BOY.



The picture is from a recent photograph of a German lad known as "Long Joseph" who has been on public exhibition in Berlin. His full name is Joseph Schippers, and he is the son of a butcher living at Muenchen Gladbach. At the age of twelve the boy was obliged to leave school on account of his unusual stature. He is now sixteen and is seven feet two inches in height. His father, mother and nine brothers and sisters are of the regulation height. Joseph is a bright and cheerful youth and expresses the hope that he has not yet reached the limit.

PRINCE FREDERICK'S LEAP.



The picture represents a recent achievement of the crown prince of Germany. In a competition at Potsdam Prince Frederick finished in a dead heat. Now in his twenty-third year, this young man is one of the most daring and accomplished horsemen in the empire. As a result of the strict regimen imposed upon his sons by the kaiser, the crown prince is devoted to heroic exercises of all kinds. He is not at all inclined to take advantage of the immunity from hardship which his position offers, but is disposed to deal with himself as rigorously as if he were a peasant's son.

TWO LIVING SKELETONS.



George and Emma Martin, brother and sister, were victims of the Spanish flu in Cuba. They were taken, with their parents, who were active insurgents, the most inhuman treatment and were given only sufficient food to prevent actual starvation. Their parents were unable to endure the torture and died after a few months' struggle. The children finally escaped by feigning death. They placed themselves among a number of dead bodies and were thrown with them on the beach outside the prison inclosure. After awhile they managed to attract the attention of a United States dispatch boat, the Hercules, and they were taken aboard and carried to their native place, Tampa, Fla.

WORLD'S YOUNGEST MAESTRO.

Max Danewski, called "the Little Mozart," is the most wonderful child musician since the immortal Wolfgang. He is eight years of age and is a native of Poland. He has been delighting London with his wonderful musical pre-



cocity. He is a marvelous violinist and recently conducted a large orchestra during the playing of one of his own compositions. Mozart was the only other prodigy on record who began to astonish the world at such a tender age. At six he was playing the piano at the courts of Europe. Joachim, who is still living and who may come to America, was the finest violinist of the age at twelve. Josef Hoffman was able to play any composition at the age of eleven. Little Max Danewski, however, seems to have eclipsed all of these.