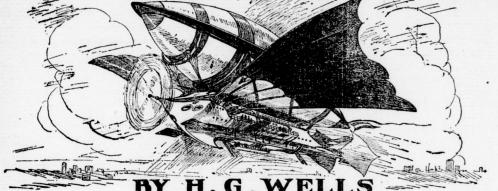
The WAR IN THE AIR



## BY H.G.WELLS [Copyright, 1907, 1908, by the Macmillan Company.]

## PROLOGUE OF THE STORY.

Germany, hating the Monroe doctrine and ambitious for world's supremacy, secretly builds a vast fleet of airships and plans to surprise the United States by means of a sudden attack. Her airship fleet consists of great dirigi-bles of the Von Zeppelin type and small aeroplanes called Drachenflieger.

Prince Karl Albert commands the German airsbinas Germany and Eng-land have both been endeavoring to buy an extraordinary flying machine invented by Alfred Butteridge, who arrives at a British seaside resort in a runaway balloon, accompanied by a lady in whom he is interested. Bert Smallways, a motorcycle dealer in hard luck, who is in love with

Miss Edna Bunthorne, and his partner, Grubb, are impersonating a pair of "desert dervishes" at the seashore. Bert catches hold of the basket of the balloon and falls into it just as Butteridge and the lady fall out.

The balloon carries Bert across the North sea. He finds drawings of But-teridge's airship in some of Butteridge's clothing and hides the plans in his chest protector. His balloon drifts over Germany's immense aeronautic park. German soldiers shoot holes in it and capture Bert. They think he is But-teridge. Soldiers carry him to the cabin of the Vaterland, flagship of the air fleet. Lieutenant Kurt guards him. The vast fleet starts across the ocean attack New York. Graf von Winterfeld offers Bert £100,000 for the secret of Butteridge, whom Bert impersonates somewhat crudely.

Bert Meets the Prince. GOT the plans," said Bert.

"Yes; there is that! Yes, but rou see the prince was interested in Herr Pooterage because of his romantic seit. Herr Pooterage was so much more-ah-in the picture. I am afraid you are not equal to controlling the flying machine department of our aerial park as he wished you to do. He hadt promised himself that.

He hadt promised himself that. "And der was also the prestige—the worldt prestige of Pooterage with us. Well, we must see what we can do." He held out his hand. "Gif me the plans."

A terrible chill ran through the be ing of Mr. Smallways. To this day he is not clear in his mind whether he weep or no, but certainly there was weeping in his voice. "'Ere, I say!" he protested. "Ain't I to 'ave nothin' 'em ?"

The secretary regarded him with enevolent eyes. "You do not deserve benevolent eyes. " anyzing!" he said.

"I might 'ave tore 'em up." "Zey are not yours!"

"They weren't Butteridge's!"

"No need to pay anyzing."

Bert's being seemed to tighten toward desperate deeds. "Gaw!" he said, clutching his coat, "ain't there?" he

"Pe gaim," said the secretary. "Lis-ten! You shall haf five hundert poundts. You shall haf it on my promise. I will do that for you, and that is all I can do. Take it from me. Gif me the name of that bank. Write it down. So! I tell you the prince is no choke. I do not think he approffed of your appearance last night. No; I can't answer for him. He wanted Pooterage, and you hat spoilt it. The prince I do not understand quite. He is in a strange state. It is the excitement of the starting and this great soaring in the air. I cannot account soaring in the air. I cannot account for what he does. But if all goes well I will see to it you shall haf five hun-dert poundts. Will that do? Then gif me the plans."

"Old beggar!" said Bert as the door clicked. "Gaw! What an ole beggar! Sharp!'

And later in the day an extremely shattered and disorganized Bert Small-ways stood in the presence of the Prince Karl Albert.

The proceedings were in German. The prince was in his own cabin, the end room of the airship, a charming apartment furnished in wickerwork, with a long window across its entire

rang a bell, and the portfolio was handed to an attendant, who took it away.

Then they reverted to the case of Then they reverted to the case of Bert, and it was evident the prince was inclined to be hard with him. Von Winterfeld protested. Apparent-ly theological considerations came in, there were several mentions of for "Gott!" Some conclusions emerged, and it was apparent that Von Winterfeld was instructed to convey them to Bert.

"Mr. Schmallvays, you haf obtained a footing in this airship," he said, "by disgraceful and systematic lying." "'Ardly systematic," said Bert. "I"-The prince silenced him by a ges-

ture. "And it is within the power of his highness to dispose of you as a spy." "'Ere! I came to sell"-

"Ssh!" said one of the officers. "However, in consideration of the

happy chance that mate you the instrument unter Gott of this Pooterage flying machine reaching his highness hand, you haf been spared. Yes; you were the pearer of goot tidings. You will be allowed to remain on this ship until it is convenient to dispose of you. Do you understandt?" "We will bring him," said the prince,

and added terribly, with a terrible glare, "as ballast."

"You are to come with us," said Winterfeld, "as pallast, Do you un-derstandt?"

Bert opened his mouth to ask about the £500, and then a saving gleam of wisdom silenced him. He met Von Winterfeld's eye, and it seemed to him the secretary nodded slightly. "Go!" said the prince, with a sweep of the great arm and hand toward the door. Bert went out like a leaf before a gale.

But in between the time when the Graf von Winterfeld had talked to him and this alarming conference with the prince, Bert had explored the Vaterland from end to end. He had found it interesting in spite of grave preoccupations. Kurt, like the greater number of the men upon the German air fleet, had known hardly anything of aeronautics before his appointment to the new flagship. But he was extremely keen upon this wonderful new weapon Germany had assumed so suddenly and dramatically. He showed things to Bert with a boyish eagerness and appreciation. It was as if he showed them over again to himself. What can those things do?" like a child showing a new toy. "Let's go all over the ship." he said with himself and was still explaining when zest. He pointed out particularly the lightness of everything, the use of exhausted aluminium tubing, of springy cushions inflated with compressed hydrogen. The partitions were hydrogen bags covered with light imitation leather. The very crockery was a light biscuit glazed in a vacuum and weighed next to nothing. Where strength was needed there was the new Charlottenburg alloy, German steel as it was called, the toughest and most resistant metal in the world. There was no lack of space. did not matter, so long as load did not grow. The habitable part of the ship was 250 feet long, and the rooms in two tiers. Above these one could go up into remarkable little white metal turrets with big windows and air tight double doors that enabled one to inspect the vast cavity of the gas cham-bers. This inside view impressed Bert very much. He had never realized before that an airship was not one simcontinuous gas bag containing ple nothing but gas. Now he saw above him the backbone of the apparatus and its big ribs, "like the neu-ral and haemal canals," said Kurt,

who had dabbled in biology.

"Rather," said Bert appreciatively, though he had not the ghost of an idea what these phrases meant.

ders across the space. "But you can't go into the gas," protested Bert. "You can't breve it."

The lieutenant opened a cupboard door and displayed a diver's suit, only that it was made of oiled silk, and both its compressed air knapsack and its helmet were of an alloy of alumin-ium and some light metal. "We can "We can go all over the inside netting and stick up bulletholes or leaks," he explained. "There's uetting inside and out. The whole outer case is rope ladder, so to speak."

Aft of the habitable part of the airship was the magazine of explo-sives, coming near the middle of its length. They were all bombs of various types, mostly in glass. None of the German airships carried any guns at all, except one small pompom, to use the old English nickname dating from the Boer war, which was forward in the gallery upon the shield at the heart of the eagle. From the mag-azine amidships a covered canvas gallery, with aluminium treads on its floor and a hand rope, ran back underneath the gas chamber to the engine room at the tail. But along this Bert did not go, and from first to last he never saw the engines. But he went up a ladder against a gale of ventila-tion-a ladder that was incased in a kind of gas tight fire escape-and ran right athwart the great forward air chamber to the little lookout gallery with a telephone, that gallery that bore the light pompom of German steel and its locker of shells. This gallery was all of aluminium magne-sium alloy, the tight front of the airship swelled clifflike above and below. and the black eagle sprawled over-whelmingly gigantic, its extremities all hidden by the bulge of the gas

bag And far down under the soaring eagles was England, 4.000 feet below perhaps and looking very small and defenseless indeed in the morning sun light.

The realization that there was England gave Bert sudden and unexpected qualms of patriotic compunction. He was struck by a quite novel idea. er all, he might have torn up those plans and thrown them away. These people could not have done so very These much to him. And even if they did. ought not an Englishman to die for his country? It was an idea that had hitherto been rather smothered up by the cares of a competitive civilization He became violently depressed. He ought. he perceived, to have seen it in that light before. Wasn't he a traitor?

He was passing between Manchester and Liverpool, Kurt told him.

Kurt and he fell talking of aerial tactics and presently went down to the undergallery in order that Bert might see the Drachenflieger that the airships of the right wing had picked up over night and were towing behind them, each airship towing three or four. They looked like big box kites of an exaggerated form, soaring at the ends of invisible cords. They had long, square heads and flattened with lateral propellers tails Your machine is different from that, Mr. Butteridge?"

"Quite different," said Bert. "More like an insect and less like a bird. And it buzzes and don't drive about so. What can those things do?"

# A GLANCE AT THE NEWS OF 1911

ONGRESS' extra session was a busy one in spite of the fact that it was called merely to take

action upon Canadian reciproc-Among the many other matters absorbed its attention were the problem of reducing the tariff on wool, cotton and other schedules. But the bills relating to these subjects were vetoed by the president, who held that the tariff board had not been afforded sufficient time to report on them. The arrival of the reports, however, has led to another effort looking to the accomplishment of the proposed reductions. The Democrats control the house and, with the progressives, hold a senate majority. The situation is the first of the kind in sixteen years.

### As to the Presidency

Politically the presidential campaign of 1912 took shape more or less. For months speculation has been rife as to he prospective candidates. That President Taft wants another term there now is no question, and lately it has been rumored that Governor Hadley of Missouri will be his running mate. Whether Colonel Roosevelt will seek



Copyright by American Press Association Colonel Roosevelt, Who May Figure In Presidential Campaign

the presidential toga for the third term remains to be seen, although political wiseacres thought they saw the handwriting on the wall when there appeared a magazine article from the olonel's pen bearing on the trust ques-Senator La Follette of Wiscontion. sin will be in the race.

On the Democratic side Governors Harmon of Ohio and Wilson of New Jersey are avowedly in the field. Speaker Champ Clark and Represen-tative Oscar W. Underwood are other

not yet concurred. Vote of the senate, 46 to 40, declared William Lorimer of Illinois duly elect ed. President Taft accepted the resignation of Richard Ballinger as secre-tary of the interior and appointed Walter L. Fisher of Chicago. The Sixtysecond congress convened on April 2, with Champ Clark as speaker. The with Champ Clark as speaker. The United States recognized the republic of Portugal. President Taft signed the Anglo-American and Franco-American arbitration treaties. The British house of lords passed the "veto bill," amounting to a surrender to the house of commons. Canada rejected reciprocity with the United States at its annual election. California voted to adopt the initiative, the referendum, the recall and equal suffrage. Francisco I. Madero was inaugurated president of Mexico. Hon. A. J. Balfour resigned as leader of the British Conservatives. The fur seal treaty between the Unit-ed States, Russia, Japan and Great Britain became effective. John G. A. Leishman became ambassador at Berlin, succeeding Dr. Hill, resigned. The

which cost the lives of 144 persons, the greater part of them young women; two mine disasters occurring almost simultaneously, one at Throop, Pa., in which sixty-two men and boys perished, and the other at the Banner mines in Alabama, where 128 died; the flood at Austin, Pa., due to a mill dam giving way, taking a toll of seventy-two lives, and the explosion at Com-munipaw, N. J., in which thirty-five were killed. Besides the above, thirty persons were killed in a railroad wreck at Manchester, N. Y., twenty-six were killed at a moving picture calamity at Canonsburg, Pa., and an explosion killed eight men on the United States warship Delaware. A tidal wave in the Philippines cost

300 lives in villages along the shores of Lake Taal.

The tragical also figured in the year's news abroad. Consternation was caused in Russia by an assassin's fatal attack upon Premier Stolypin. Bogroff, the assailant, was executed one week after the premier succumbed to his wounds. Shipwrecks in foreign waters cost several hundred lives, and an explosion of the magazines of the French battleship Liberte resulted in the death of 235 men.

America's New Cardinals. The Catholic world was interested in the creation of a score of new cardinals, the number including Archbishop John M. Farley of New York, Archbishop William H. O'Connell of Boston, and Mgr. Diomede Falconio, apostolic delegate to Washington.

## Foreign Disturbances.

The revolution in China was fraught with startling happenings. Reports of horrible slaughter were frequent and American mission workers' lives Wu Ting were placed in jeopardy. Wu Ting Fang, former minister to the United States, headed the rebel cabinet. The government has given in to the extent of granting a constitution and parliament, and former Minister Wu declares his belief that the empire eventually will become a republic, which was the purpose of the revolutionists at the time of the outbreak. Exciting incidents also attended the clash between Italy and Turkey. Italy struck first and with disconcerting suddenness.

Progress of Aviation. conquest of the air was sig-Man's nalized by marvelous achievements. The most noteworthy of these was the flight from the Atlantic to the Pacific of Calbraith P. Rodgers, which was accomplished after Harry N. Atwood had traveled by airship from St. Louis, Mo., to Governor's island, New York, a distance of 1,265 miles

### The Upheaval In Mexico.

The war in Mexico, which the insur-rectos won, was followed with close interest in the United States. Indeed. Washington came near taking a hand in it, as the accidental wounding of a number of American citizens over the border, in Douglas, Ariz., led to the issuance of a stern command from this government not to further imperil Americans' lives.

In the State of Ohio. Brand Whitlock was elected as mayor of Toledo, O., for the fourth term. Mayor Whitlock, who broke into the political arena somewhat on the lines of "Golden Rule" Jones, who also was mayor of the same city, is known as an author as well as a politician. The campaign in which he was elected was an incident of one of the warmest elections they have ever had in the Buckeye State. The Democrats car-ried the chief cities of Cleveland, Cin-



## FRENCH-GERMAN COLORS.

## Supposed Origin of the Tricolor and Teutonic Flag. For five centuries black and white

have been the Hohenzollern colors, and the first verse of the German war song, "Ich bin ein Preusse," is:

I am a Prussian! Know ye not my ban-ner? Before me floats my flag of black and white! My fathers died for freedom. 'Twas their

manner. So say these colors floating in your sight.

The mercantile marine tricolor of black, white and red is emblematic of the joining of the Hohenzollern black and white with the red and white, which was the ensign of the Hanseatic league. This flag came into being when the North German confederacy was established, Nov. 25, 1867, at the close of the Austro-Prussian war. The red and white represents the commercial prosperity of the nation, while the black and white symbolizes the strong arm of the state prepared to protect and foster it.

Nowhere have historical events caused so much change in the standards and national ensigns of a country as in France, remarks the Kansas City Star. The oriflamme and the chape de St. Martin were succeeded at the end of the sixteenth century, when Henry III. (the last of the house of Valois) came to the throne, by the white standard powdered fleur-de-lis. That in turn gave place to the famous tri-color, which was introduced at the time of the revolution, but the origin of that flag and its colors is a disputed question. Some maintain that the intention was to combine in the flag the blue of the chape de St. Martin, the red of the oriflamme and the white flag of the Bourbons. By others the colors are said to be those of the city of Paris. Yet again other authorities assert that the flag is copied from the shield of the Orleans family as it appeared after Philippe Egalite had knocked off the fleur-de-lis.

An Explanation.



Stage Manager-Ladies and gentlemen, by looking at your programs you will notice that two years are supposed to elapse between acts 1 and 2. Inasmuch as the constable has seized the costumes, I think it will be fully that long before we get things settled. Thanking you, one and all, for your uniform courtesy, etc.-New York Journal.

## TRAIN ROBBERY IN RUSSIA.

### Government to Build Armored Care For Protection.

As bandits hold up trains and carry off large sums of money almost daily, the Russian government has decided to construct armored carriages for the use of the state bank. They will run regularly between St. Petersburg and Russia's principal towns.

They are to be of iron and will contain accommodation for a strong con-voy of soldiers. Each wagon will be so planned that the guard can fire from it as from a fort. Each train will be under the command of an officer, who is to have full powers to open fire on all suspicious persons approaching the train.

The authorities have come to the conclusion that this is the only means of putting a stop to the prevailing lawlessness on Russian railway tracks. As the ordinary postal trains can only carry a small convoy, the raiders have things all their own way and have grown so daring that they now hold up trains in broad daylight and quietly bury their booty in a neighboring for-est while the panic stricken passengers wait for them to set the engine driver

## possibilities. More Politics. A resolution to elect United States senators by a direct vote of the people was first lost in the senate by four votes, later passing that body, but with an amendment in which the house has

Progressive Republican league was formed.

breadth, looking forward. He was sit-ting at a folding table of green baize, with Von Winterfeld and two officers sitting beside him, and littered before them was a number of American maps and Mr. Butteridge's letters and his portfolio and a number of loose papers. Bert was not asked to sit down and remained standing throughout the interview. Von Winterfeld told his story, and every now and then the words balloon and Pooterage struck on Bert's ears. The prince's face remained stern and ominous, and the two officers watched it cautiously or glanced at Bert. Presently he was struck by an idea, and they fell dis-cussing the plans. The prince asked struck by an idea, and they fell dis-cussing the plans. The prince asked Bert abruptly in English. "Did you ever see this thing go op?" Bert jumped. "Saw it from Bun 'lil, your royal highness."

Von Winterfeld made some explana-

"How fast did it go?"

"Couldn't say, your royal highness. The papers, leastways the Daily Courier, said eighty miles an hour.

They talked German over that for a "Couldt it standt still? Op in the air?

"That is what I want to know." "It could 'ovver, your royal high-ness, like a wasp." said Bert, "Viel besser, nicht wahr?" said the prince to Von Winterfeld, and then went on in German for a time. Presently they came to an end, and the two officers looked at Bert. One in the night. There were even lad-

Bert was called to the conference we recorded with the prince.

And after that was over the last traces of Butteridge fell from Bert like a garment, and he became Smallways to all on board. The soldiers ceased to salute him, and the officers ceased to seem aware of his existence, except Lieutenant Kurt. He was furn out of his nice cabin and packed in with his belongings to share that

of Lieutenant Kurt, whose luck it was to be junior, and the bird headed officer, still swearing slightly and car rying strops and aluminium boot trees and weightless hair brushes and hand mirrors and pomade in his hands, re-sumed possession. Bert was put in sumed possession. Bert was put in with Kurt because there was nowhere else for him to lay his bandaged head in that close packed vessel. He was to mess, he was told, with the men. "What's your real name, then?" said urt, who was only imperfectly insaid Kurt. formed of the new state of affairs. "Smallways."

"I thought you were a bit of a fraud even when I thought you were Butteridge You're jolly lucky the prince took it calmly. He's a pretty tidy blazer when he's roused. He wouldn't "Rather," said Bert appreciatively, though he had not the ghost of an idea what these phrases meant. Little electric lights could be switch-ad on up there if anything went wrong [To be continued.]

### Labor.

No highly sensational conflicts between labor and employer have oc-curred in the United States during 1911, but the trial of the McNamara brothers. charged with responsibility for the de-struction of the Los Angeles (Cal.) newspaper building, which caused a death list of twenty-one, occupied the attention of the entire country.

The International Seamen's union. after tieing up shipping at ports of Great Britain and elsewhere abroad, won practically all its demands.

From the Year's Death List, ' United States Senator Stephen B. El-kins of West Virginia, aged seventy; Paul Morton, ex-secretary of the navy, aged fifty-four; Tom L. Johnson, former mayor of Cleveland, O., famous for his fight for 3 cent street car fares, aged fifty-six: United States Senator William Pierce Frye of Maine, aged seventy-nine; John W. Gates, known as "Bet You a Million Gates," aged fifty-six; John M. Harlan of United States supreme court, aged seventyeight: Joseph Pulitzer, newspaper pro prietor; General Cronje, Boer war hero, and Rear Admiral W. S. Schley, hero of Spanish-American war,

free

In future only mails and small sums of money will be sent by ordinary trains. Private banks will be able to hire accommodation in the armored trains. They will begin to run in a couple of months' time

Too Many Elephants In Ceylon. The number of elephants in Ceylon is increasing so rapidly that they are becoming a terror to the traveler and a scourge to the planter, the latest es timate of the forest department placing their number at 5,000.

The great native land holders ar ranged therefore with the help of their tenants to relieve the latter of one of their grievances and at the same time to derive from the operation consider-able sport and more profit, for in Ceylon the elephant has a very real market value, for he not only figures conspicuously in all ceremonies of religion and of state, but is employed in forest clearing, cultivation, irrigation and pretty much every other form of draft being when properly trained a work. useful and valuable animal.-Outing.

## Brand Whitlock, Author, Elected as Mayor Four Times.

cinnati and Columbus, the new mayor of Cleveland being a disciple of the late Tom L. Johnson and the new mayor of Cincinnati a vigorous opponent of the Cox machine. The pro-gressives elected the majority of members of the coming constitutional convention, assuming a provision for the initiative, referendum and recall. Per-haps the most sensational feature of the result, however, was that the Socialists elected mayors of eleven cities.

## Earthquakes In 1911,

The year 1911 had just been ushered in when an appalling earthquake disof Spanish-American war. The Worst Disasters. The list of disasters was a long one. Probably the catastrophes that most shocked this country were the Asch building fire horror in New York city.