

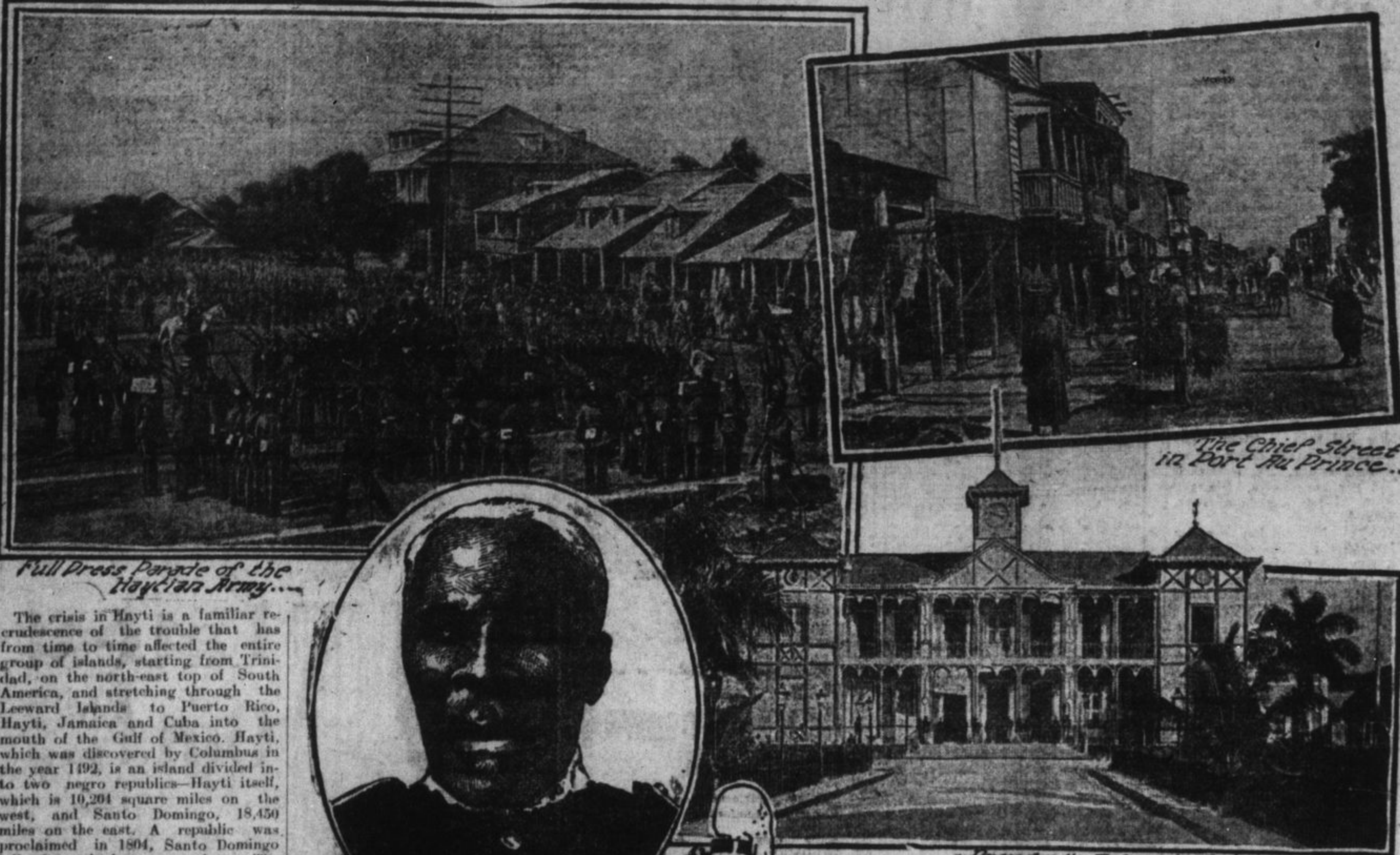
# The Daily British Whig

YEAR 75.

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NO. 87

## SCENES IN DISTURBED HAYTI WITH ITS DICTATOR.



Full Dress Parade of the Haytian Army.

The crisis in Hayti is a familiar recrudescence of the trouble that has from time to time affected the entire group of islands, starting from Trinidad, on the north-east tip of South America, and stretching through the Leeward Islands to Puerto Rico, Hayti, Jamaica and Cuba into the mouth of the Gulf of Mexico. Hayti, which was discovered by Columbus in the year 1492, is an island divided into two negro republics—Hayti itself, which is 10,291 square miles on the west, and Santo Domingo, 18,450 miles on the east. A republic was proclaimed in 1804, Santo Domingo following suit forty years later. The history of the Hayti republic has been tortuous and full of disasters. There seems to be some doubt as to the real character of the present outbreak. Some hold it to be political, and others declare that it is of an anti-foreign character. The truth may be that it was originally political, and that the people, once excited about their own domestic affairs, have



President Nord Alexis.

given vent to their dislike of the white man. A few weeks ago a revolution, led by Gen. Firmin, against the president, Gen. Nord Alexis, who

is an old man, was successfully checked. The president was once a revolutionist himself and was a refugee in the French consulate in 1887 and 1892. He then removed a wall separating his garden from that of the French consulate, so that he might be ready for emergencies. So far Gen. Firmin is a refugee, but twenty-seven

of his fellow-conspirators have been shot, thirteen of them being executed.

Although she may not get much credit, the woman behind the broom raises a lot of dust. It takes a clever photographer to produce a speaking likeness of a dumb person.

A French jury has once again found extenuating circumstances in the case of a callous murderer guilty of an imagined. The trial took place at Epinal, the prisoner being Emile a atrocious crime as could well be Chartier, son of a small farmer. The father, who was a widower, had taken a housekeeper, whom he had treated as his wife. A boy was born and from that time Emile became morose and sullen, evidently thinking the new arrival might interfere with his inheritance. Nothing happened for years, though Emile's temper grew worse and worse. At last came the end. One evening he hid behind the door, and as the housekeeper entered he split her skull with a swinging blow from a huge axe. Hastily putting the body out of view, he waited for his father's return from the fields, and despatched him in the same fashion. The last victim was his half-brother. He had just brought the ox team in when a terrible blow cut his head in twain. Chartier's next move was to dispose of the bodies. He built a great fire in the farmhouse oven, and, after cutting the corpses into pieces, flung the remains into the furnace. Two of the bodies had been thus disposed of when he was disturbed and fled. After wandering in the woods for days until he was nearly starving, he was captured. At the trial he appeared utterly unable to appreciate his position. He was sentenced to penal servitude for life.

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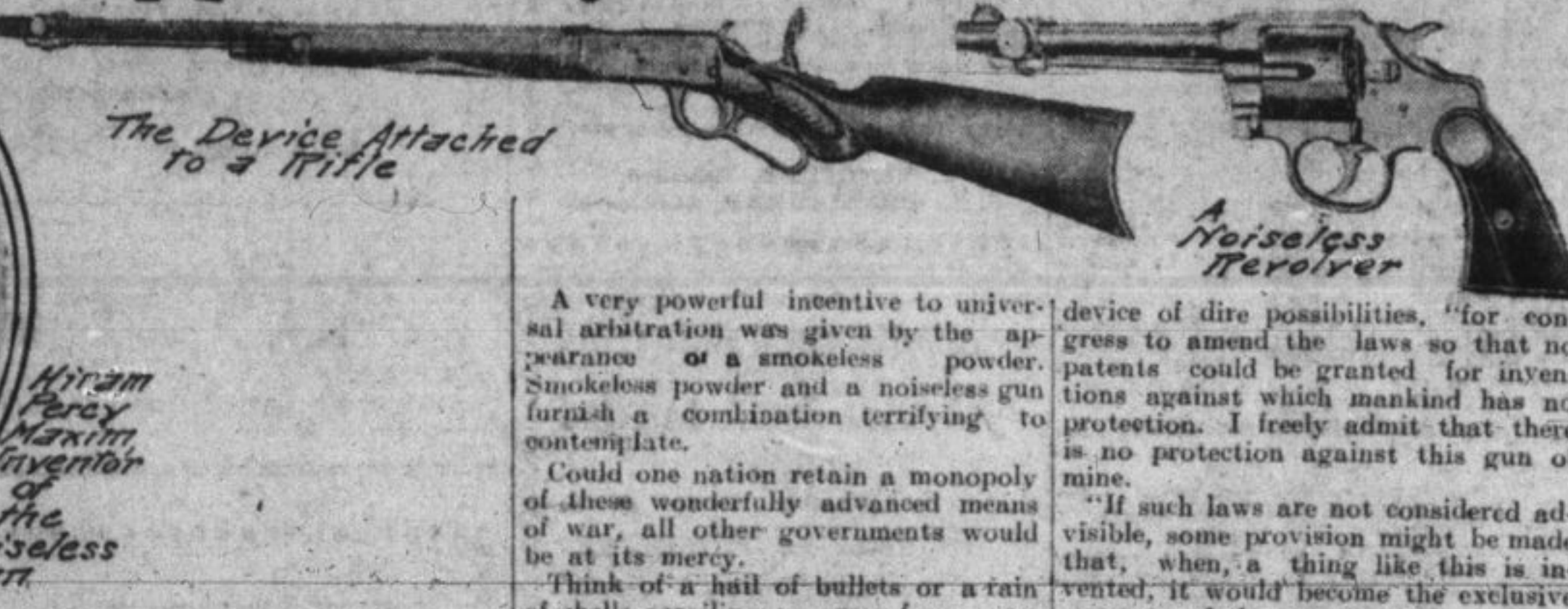
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## An Inventor Appalled by the Child of His Brain



Hiram Percy Maxim, Inventor of the Noiseless Gun.



It isn't often an inventor stands appalled in the presence of the child of his brain. But this is the state of affairs with Hiram Percy Maxim, whose noiseless gun not only threatened revolution, but perhaps to banish war, and presents terrifying possibilities in crime.

A son of Sir Hiram Maxim, who invented the terrible machine-gun that bears his name, the young man inherited what he calls his "unfortunate inventive streak." And, strange to say, he wasn't aiming after a noiseless gun at all when he stumbled over it, as it were.

Now, with the news of his invention awakening the keenest interests around the world, young Maxim admits that his mind is not at all easy because of what he has done.

"When," said Mr. Maxim, in discussing his device the other day, "you can discharge a bullet from a gun with practically the same velocity and accuracy as with the old weapons, and do it silently, it is evident that you have a very dangerous possibility."

It would seem so, indeed.

"Strange as it may appear," declared Mr. Maxim, "the idea came to me while I was engaged in a most peaceful pursuit. I did not begin work with the intention of turning out a gun at all."

"A long time ago I left firearm behind me and engaged in the auto mobile business. In common with many others I was seeking a means of muffling the reports of gas engines on automobiles."

"I located the seat of trouble in

the piston of the engine, and when I arrived at the solution of the problem this idea flashed across my mind that I could do that with an engine I could do it also with a gun."

He did.

Similar to that made use of in the automobile muffler is the principle of the new gun device.

The report due to the sudden release of gases at the muzzle of a weapon is prevented through the action of a valve which allows the gas to escape gradually, with but a hissing noise.

When the device, which is comparatively small, is attached to a gun the appearance of the weapon is not changed, except for a small crosspiece in the barrel a short distance from the muzzle. A piston valve is fitted so that it slides across the bore of the barrel immediately after the bullet passes out.

No intricate mechanical device is necessary to operate the valve; it is actuated entirely by the pressure of the gases as they follow the speeding bullet.

It is the uninterrupted discharge of these gases that makes the loud report in the ordinary gun. The valve in Maxim's gun, closing behind the bullet and before the gases, holds them in check and allows them to escape gradually through a series of small holes.

The only noise resulting is a slight hissing, which might be drowned by the rumble of passing wheels, or even the rustling of leaves in the trees.

After firing, the valve resumes its open position. A safety device prevents the firing of the piece until the valve is in proper condition for work.

Mr. Maxim's invention may be fitted to guns and pistols of various sizes. Ammunition of various kinds may be used, from lead bullets and ordinary black gunpowder to steel projectiles hurled by smokeless powder.

Military experts have become deeply interested in the possibilities of the noiseless gun, and reports concerning it have been hurried off to the war departments for foreign governments.

That the new weapon holds power to compel revolution of modern methods of warfare is generally believed, unless its promise does not hold good when applied to heavier army and navy armaments.

A very powerful incentive to universal arbitration was given by the appearance of a smokeless powder. Smokeless powder and a noiseless gun furnish a combination terrifying to contemplate.

Could one nation retain a monopoly of these wonderfully advanced means of war, all other governments would be at its mercy.

"Think of a hail of bullets or a rain of shells assailing an army from some mysterious source, the location of which is not betrayed by smoke or noise.

Skirmishes could work along an enemy's front and shoot down pickets at will, the only knowledge of their nearness being given by discovery of the slain. Sharpshooters could sting the opposing forces intolerably and pick off victims without betraying their whereabouts.

Large parts of an army, the front masked by underground or natural fortifications, could be brought into action and do fearful execution before their opponents could locate them.

In the world of sport the possibilities of a noiseless weapon are not pleasant to contemplate—at least, are not pleasant to the real sportsman.

"Armed with a rifle of this kind, a man might creep within shot of a herd of deer, for instance, and bring down every one before the animals realized that an enemy was near.

From cover on shore one might pick off every one of a flock of feeding ducks.

Yet it is the use to which the weapon may be put by criminals that causes the most apprehension.

An assassin might bring down his victim in a crowded street without being detected; murder from ambush could be done with little fear of attracting attention.

Many a burglar or other criminal would shoot more freely than now. Comparatively few, unless cornered, will risk attracting unfavorable attention at present by using a pistol, with a noiseless gun at command, life-taking by cowardly criminals, will undoubtedly become more frequent.

"It would be a good idea," said inventor Maxim while speaking of his

device of dire possibilities, "for congress to amend the laws so that no patents could be granted for inventions against which mankind has no protection. I freely admit that there is no protection against this gun of mine.

"If such laws are not considered advisable, some provision might be made that, when a thing like this is invented, it would become the exclusive property of the government.

"However, with such laws in force, the guns might still be made and used secretly. I am afraid that even now some mechanical geniuses among the criminal classes are at work on it.

"If there were only some way to control its manufacture or prevent its use, except by the military and police, for whom it was intended, my conscience would be easier.

"When the idea came to me it was perfectly natural for me to work it out. Some persons may argue that I should have kept the thing to myself.

"Yes, I might have done so. I might never have breathed a word of it; might have taken the secret with me to the grave.

"But what inventor would have done that? Man is not yet developed to the point where such a thing is possible.

"Besides, I am sure some one else would soon have made the invention. It was bound to come, just like smokeless powder came."

From cover he intended to offer the device to the United States government, but that did not guarantee American monopoly. It is possible for anyone to go to the patent office at Washington and take copies of any plans on file there on which patents have been granted.

This can be done by the agent of a foreign government as well as by anyone else. In a few months, Mr. Maxim thinks Japan will be manufacturing these guns, and in time may use them against the nation, a son of which brought them into being.

## CURIOUS DISCOVERY

### THE DANGEROUS MAN WORE A STEEL CUIRASS.

French Commission to Relieve Sufferings of Women Workers—Paris Police Are Alert For Anarchists.

Paris, April 11.—A commission of representatives of both employers and workers will be named in a few days by President Fallieres for the purpose of discussing measures to relieve the sufferings of women workers who are paid less than in any other European country. It is the opinion of the president that a French organization on the lines of the American National Civic Federation is very much needed in France.

The impulse to the president's action was given by the facts concerning the condition of more than half a million women workers in this city, just revealed by the department of labor statistics.

Judging from the results published, the earnings of a whole lifetime of one of these unfortunate creatures would hardly pay the price of a single dress purchased by her fashionable sister in the Rue de la Paix. Lingerie seamstresses earn on an average from three to five sous an hour, but a large number of them can barely make twelve centimes an hour or about three cents a day by working fifteen or sixteen hours. A writer in the *Matin*, who had the curiosity to visit these poor working women in different parts of Paris, has drawn a wonderful picture. He reaches the sixth floor in a small garret room; a young woman, less than thirty, wears spectacles, all seamstresses must wear them. He asks the young woman, bent over her work how much she can earn. "One franc 20 centimes (in American money 22 cents) a day by making two shirts and working hard for ten hours."

In another house he finds a still younger woman. She makes chains for children's toy watches, and has to make 144 chains for 12 cents. The chain is supplied, and she has to cut it in lengths of about 3 in., attach brass trinkets, and finish them off with a ring or clasp. She ties them together in dozens, and by beginning early in the morning, and working until late at night, she may be able to make twelve dozen for which she gets just 12 cents. That is her day's earnings. Sometimes she has only the bars or clasp to make, and she must turn out 3,000 a day before she has earned the same sum. At the end of such a day she is unable to raise her arm from fatigue.

Another woman made leather boxes and was proud of receiving the highest wages of all, 23 cents for four and a half hours' work. The making of boxes has the disadvantage of inducing phenomenal obesity. The woman so employed will become enormously fat, and the doctors imagine it must be owing to some powder or just in the leather.

Other women who make waltzer wreaths with wire and glass beads may earn from 10 to 20 cents a day.

## PRINCE FERDINAND AND HIS BRIDE.



This picture was taken by the well-known court photographer, Professor Uhlenhuth, at Cobourg, where the marriage was celebrated according to Catholic rites. The princess, who was born in 1860, is the sister of Prince Henry XXIV of Prussia-Koestritz. The background shows the royal palace at Sofia.

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