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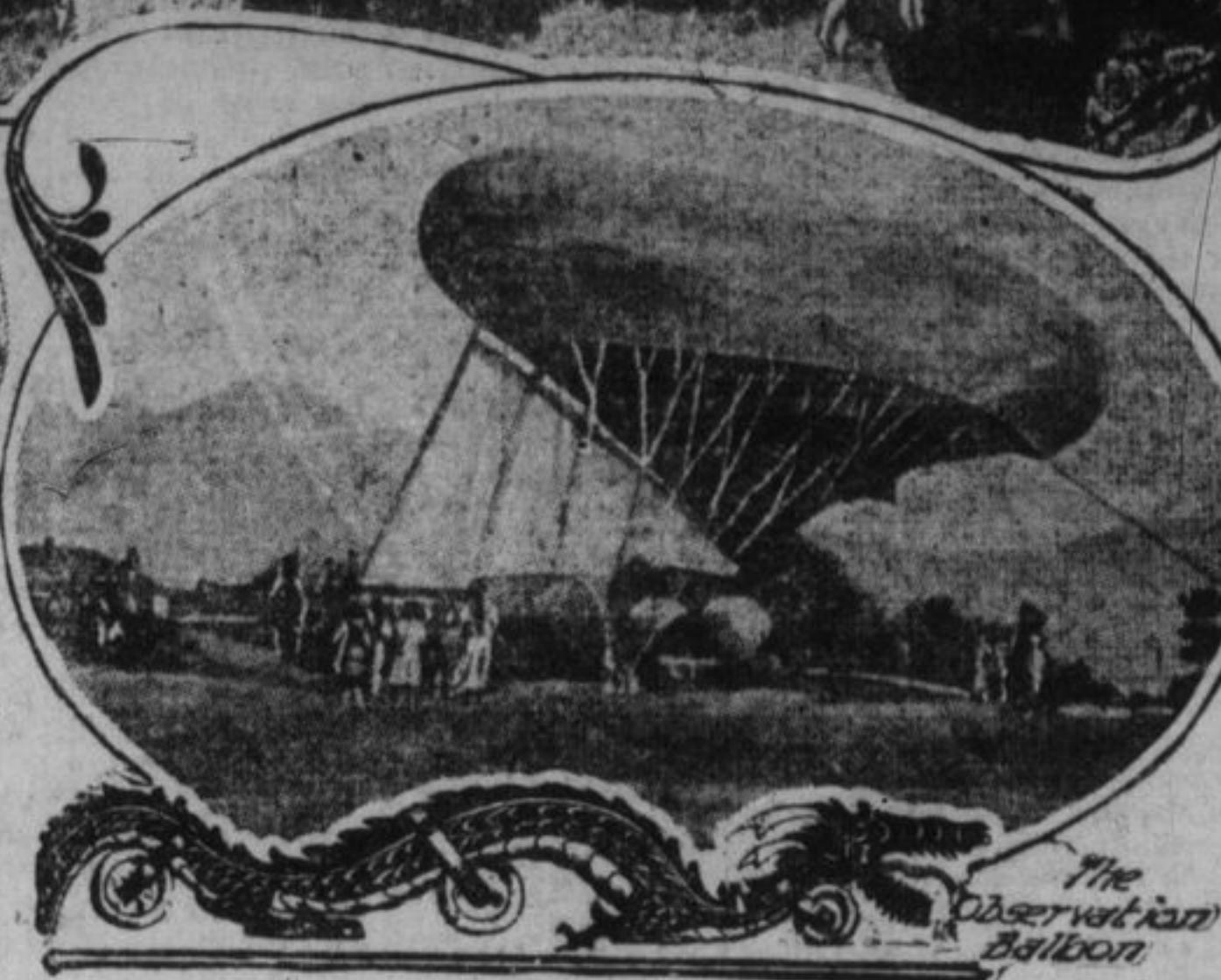
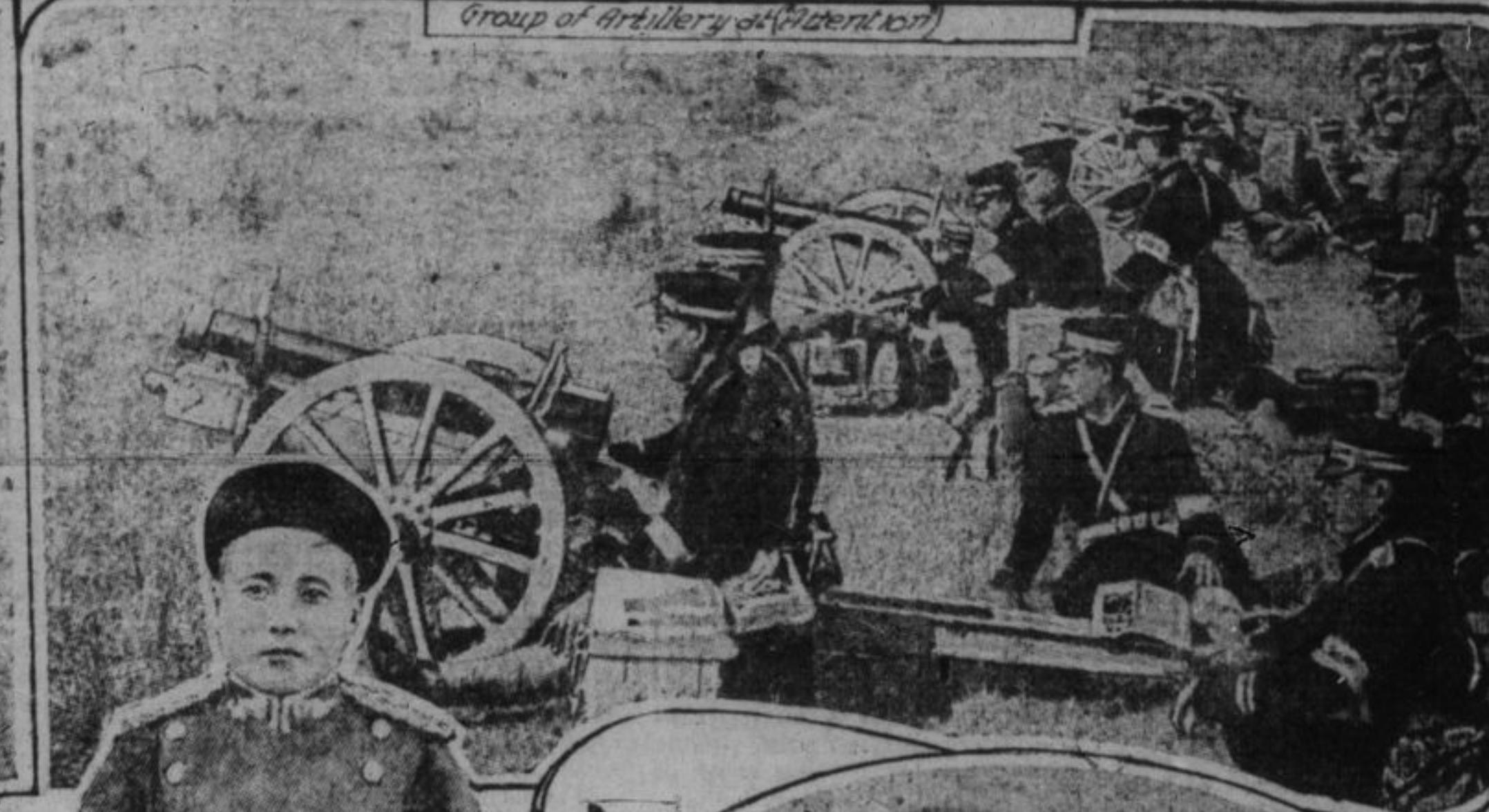
An Informing Sketch of American History, Valuable for Libraries and Research.

By VISCOUNT DE RONSAC. Price, 50c. Address British Whig, Kingston.

## CHINA BUILDING POWERFUL ARMY—GIANT REFORMS EFFECTED IN FEW YEARS.



Group of Artillery at Pekin



The Observation Bureau

Viceroy  
Nanjing,  
Director of  
Manoeuvres.

and forty attendants. The army rain wagons were of various descriptions, but they were all lightly constructed and able to go anywhere.

Each branch is provided with a balloon for signalling purposes, which is filled by means of hydrogen, and which is generated on the spot, and stored in a large bag or reservoir, carried on a special kind of trailer. The organization of both the veterinary service, and the commissariat was excellent.

The subalterns are not mounted, and carry a knapsack on their backs.

They are armed with sword and revolver. Map and field glasses are carried in leather cases, and the field flask is made of aluminum. The uniform is of light blue cloth, with yellow leather belt. Field and general officers are mounted on native horses, and their uniform is similar to that of the subalterns, their only distinctive mark being the buttons in front of their caps and on the sleeves. The rank and file are clothed in a short-sleeved tunic and trousers of the same color, with caps to match, khaki puttees and brown shoes and sandals strapped on in knapsack, the latter made of linen dyed a ruddy color.

Their rifles—of Mauser pattern—are manufactured in the arsenal at Hang-chow. On the outside of the knapsack the cooking tin is fixed in addition to great coat and blanket; the inside contains the rations. This knapsack is as heavy and cumbersome as the pattern in use in the French army. A small bag, fitted with appliances for personal use, an aluminum flask, a belt with bayonet-frog and two cartridge pouches, complete the outfit of the Chinese warrior. A machine gun section comprises four machine guns of various patterns, three officers, for men and eight horses. The gun is packed on one side of the horse, and on the other side various tools, contained in a leather case, are strapped on. The men are only armed with a sword-hayonet.

The cavalry are mounted on hardy

and vigorous native horses, but the saddles and bridles, although of European pattern, are of poor quality. The men are armed with a Mauser carbine and a small sword, which they invariably carry in their hand. They are provided with cooking tins-like

of the infantry—made of aluminum, and yellow leather boots without spurs.

They rather neglect their mounts. An engineer company comprises three sections of thirty men each; each man carries his engineering tool, while other tools, as also the explosives, are packed in cases and strapped on to the horses. During the manoeuvres very substantial bridges, averaging rather more than 108 yards, were constructed by the bridging detachment, over some of which the army passed without causing the slightest damage. One of the bridges was built by means of metal girders and covered with canvas, the bridge deck being made of pinewood planks and supports, while at both ends straw was laid to facilitate the approach to the structure.

A telegraph company comprises three

officers, eight non-coms and sixty-four men, with six wagons, each containing twelve coils of thick wire with India rubber insulation, while other carts carry the cases with fittings, bamboo poles and further necessary material. A wireless telegraph installation operates in each army, its appliances contained in two small carts.

The recruiting system adopted for this army is based for each province on the territorial principle. A preparatory military college exists for the officers in each province. In addition to these there are four colleges in Peking, Nanking, Pei-tchang and Sungai-Fu. After completing their studies in these establishments, the pupils are transferred to the Imperial College for Officers in Peking.

The total number of the officer-pupils at the present moment is 7,000. The instructors are nearly all of them Chinese; there are only twenty Japanese and five Germans among them. The men are armed with the Mauser rifle. The artillery (mountain and field) with Schneider guns and Krupp machine guns. The officer-pupils, in being taught according to modern methods, have shown their aptitude in assimilating the principles of modern tactics and strategy.

They know how to appreciate the advantages of European science and its innovations—the telephone, telegraph, balloon for signalling and even wireless telegraphy. The Chinese army, as constituted at the present day, has revealed itself as a force which is by no means a negligible quantity.

The field hospital could shelter about 900 men, and comprised seven conical tents for the sick, each tent to hold fourteen patients; a small square tent for the officers and two conical tents for the medical service staff, which consisted of three doctors or surgeons.

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