

Are Germans Using Principle of Gun Patented in Washington to Bombard Paris?

ELECTRICALLY OPERATED GUN KNOWN OF HERE FOR 14 YEARS

One week ago the world marveled at the report that super-cannons were bombarding Paris from a distance of seventy-five miles. Scientists, inventors and ordnance experts were almost unanimous in saying it was an impossible feat. The latter simply agreed, "It can't be done."

Today all virtually admit not only the possibility but the existence of such a gun. The bombardment of Paris has continued for eight days. Seven such guns are believed to be in action from the forests of St. Gobain. Comparatively, the damage being done is negligible. The apparent object of the big guns is to make the French believe that Paris is under fire.

Even to the people of Germany, details of the type of the gun are still lacking. Its accomplishments were almost as great a surprise to Germany as to the rest of the world.

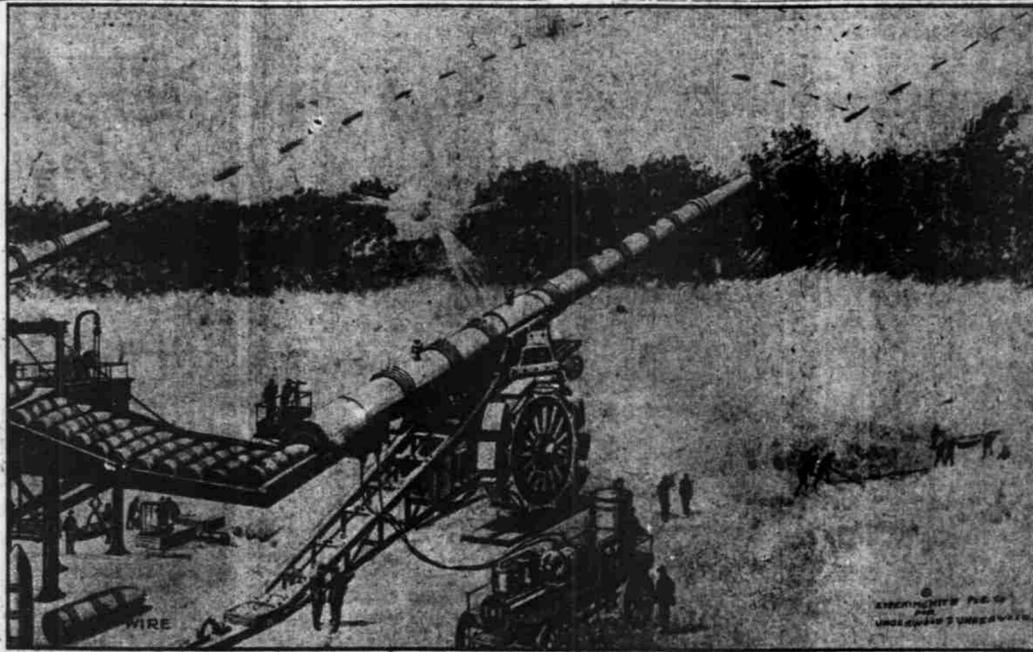


Photo above is from drawing of the electromagnetic gun invented fourteen years ago by Kristian Birkeland, a Swede, in Washington, and which is believed by some to have formed the basic principle of the gun now claimed to be bombarding Paris. The Birkeland gun is noiseless and smokeless and the projectile is thrown by force generated through the use of electricity.

May Be Birkeland Invention.

There are some who contend that the gun is based on a patent secured in Washington, D. C., on March 15, 1904, by Kristian Birkeland, a Swede, who has secured through the Patent Office in this city half a dozen patents on various inventions.

The Birkeland gun is an electromagnetic gun operated by electricity and claimed by the inventor to be noiseless and smokeless, and capable of accomplishing feats which no gun now in existence has been able to equal.

"For throwing an iron projectile weighing two tons and containing 1,000 pounds of nitrogelatin at an initial speed of 1,000 feet per second," says the inventor, "I make use of a gun of a length of about ninety feet, the projectile being about nine feet long and having a diameter of about sixteen inches."

Electricity Is Frugal.

A series of solenoids, whose contact arms electricity the projectile as it passes through the gun, furnish velocity, which is increased as the projectile moves from contact with one solenoid to the other. Each contributes to accelerate the speed of the projectile.

Released from a set of contact arms, which are electrically charged, the projectile rushes to the mouth of the cannon. Beginning at the breech of the gun, the projectile is handed from one solenoid to another until it reaches the mouth and is discharged.

The velocity gained while making its course through the big gun depends on the number of solenoids. Therefore, the

inventor does not undertake to state how far a projectile hurled from one of these guns will be carried.

Carries Any Distance.

With a sufficient number of solenoids, accepting his theory as correct, a projectile could be sent any distance.

Unlike other cannon, there is no breech in the breech of the gun against which pressure is exerted.

Only when the projectile leaves the mouth of the gun will there be formed a spark, which is blown out. The insulations may be so constructed that the gun will withstand considerable heating.

The principle of the electro magnetic gun is not only applicable to a single-barrel gun, but may be applied for a cannon of two, three, or four barrels, as shown in one of the drawings above.

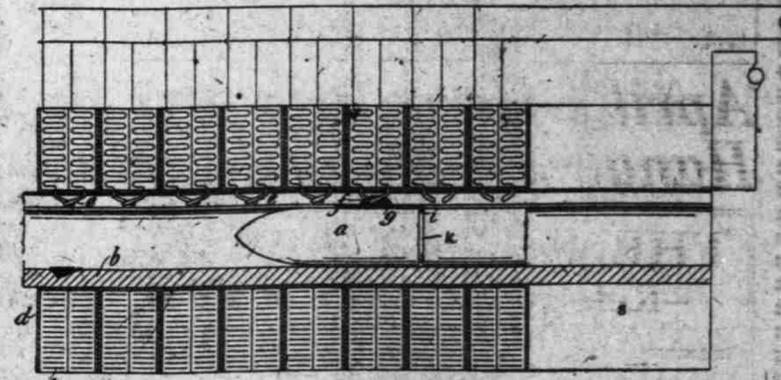
"London to Berlin" Gun.

Hudson Maxim, the inventor and scientist, declares that he could build a gun that would carry from London to Berlin.

"I do not urge any such plan," he said, "or do not believe the game would be worth the powder. The thing comes under the head of freak artillery, which is just where the gun belongs."

Charles M. Schwab, head of the Bethlehem Steel Company, says there is now being built for the United States Government guns that will carry a distance of fifty-nine miles.

principle of the gun now claimed to be bombarding Paris. The Birkeland gun is noiseless and smokeless and the projectile is thrown by force generated through the use of electricity.



Drawing showing the breech of the Birkeland electromagnetic gun and the arrangement of the solenoids whose antennae or arms project against the projectile as it passes through the cannon. The projectile is passed from one series of solenoid-windings to another. The velocity is increased in proportion to the number of solenoid-windings.

PLEASURE AS USUAL PATRIOTS

We Demand a Rebate in Fiddling and Dancing For Our War Funds.

By MRS. GRANNY RYON.

Why is it we can never contribute to a war fund like the Red Cross, Belgian babies, men blinded in battle, or any other worthy cause without demanding a rebate—in the way of fiddling and dancing?

We'll give \$2, \$3, or \$5 for any of these things, if the list of patronesses looks good to us, but we insist on having our "lizard leap," as usual.

Our Eternal Bargain Hunting.

Are we whistling in the dark to keep up our courage, or has bargain hunting eaten into our souls so completely that we can't give a cup of cold water to quench a dying soldier's thirst without some sort of junketing on the side?

The answer is, this is a long-distance war, and we have not yet begun to realize, we are actually involved. If our windows were rattling with the thunder of battle, as windows are rattling today along the English coast, we'd wake up from our trance and appreciate fully that to win the war we'd have to do more than dance with the Longevity Battalion, Swivel Chair Army.

To Win We Must Fast and Pray.

We'd know that to win we must deny ourselves, and give in prayer and fasting, blood and tears; that the war is our war—and not some lamentable casualty at the antipodes, that we are graciously pleased to ameliorate by dancing and fiddling, at so much the head.

Berlin must have indulged in a good many Gott-sei Dank! the other morning when their papers announced that Russia had given up, Roumania had given up, the throne of Courland had been offered to the Kaiser, and hundreds of thousands of men released from work on the western front, and Washington, D. C., was indulging in a camouflage ball! Camouflage, could we have expressed our idea of the war more epigrammatically?

What M. Tardieu Said in Baltimore.

And in the midst of all this fiddling and festivity M. Andre Tardieu, French high commissioner, addressed an audience in Baltimore and told them that the wheat rations of the French soldiers at the front had been cut. The French soldier now gets four ounces less than he got in January. The civilian ration has been cut to less than half that of the soldiers' ration. Brewing has been abolished to save barley, and no more cereals are fed to animals, with the result that the French have had to kill off their cattle. In consequence the reduction of other foods has been reduced, and reduced again. Sugar, oil, and fats have been cut to the vanishing point.

Appalling French Figures.

This drastic food regime has been borne without a murmur by the French, who have mobilized an army of 7,000,000 men out of a population of 35,000,000 and have lost nearly 1,000,000 men killed and another 1,000,000 wounded.

Into this sorely stricken land, we are about to send our boys as fast as ships can carry them, does it not occur to American men and women that there are more practical ways of helping things along, than by fiddling and dancing.

Our Gastronomical Patriotism.

And when our patriotism is not tepid, it is too largely gastronomical—the papers are full of "knitting-teas," "sowing-teas,"

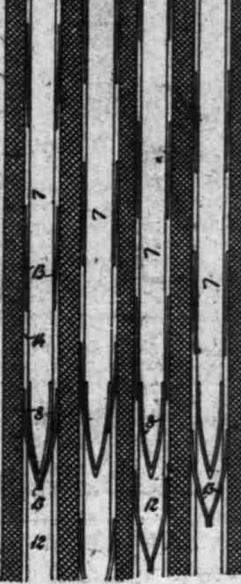
BIG FOE GUN USES SHELL INVENTED BY U. S. MAN, IS CLAIM

Robert Lee Wright, formerly of Los Angeles, but for the past year a resident of Washington, told a Times reporter last night that press dispatches describing the projectiles being hurled on Paris by the Germans convince him that the Germans are using the same principle of a projectile he invented some months ago and turned over to the War and Navy Departments of the United States.

The wrong point of the Wright projectile is its "point." He attaches to the projectile an elongated point, which he says eliminates much of the friction that now prevents shells with the usual points from attaining any considerable distance.

Mr. Wright claims that a projectile built on the principle he has developed will carry 30 to 50 per cent further on the same charge of powder or propellant than the projectiles now in common use.

The United States authorities have been in possession of his inven-



The electromagnetic gun may be made with multiple chambers for intensely rapid firing.

LABOR LEADERS TRYING TO SETTLE KAN. CITY STRIKE

KANSAS CITY, Mo., March 30.—Labor leaders today declared that the legality of the general sympathetic strike which has been on for three days in an effort to force the Laundry Owners' Association to make a settlement with its employees, is expected to be questioned by at least a part of the international officers of the various unions who are expected to arrive here today. Several of the international officers are already here.

A conference is called for this afternoon by Patrick Gill, Federal conciliator, in an attempt to settle the dispute.

The number of men and women out was announced today as 20,000 by the secretary of the strike committee.

LIBERTY BOND BILL PASSED BY HOUSE WITHOUT DISSENT

The great "Liberty bond bill"—increasing authorization for Liberty loans by \$4,000,000,000—was passed by the House last night unanimously and without a roll call.

The measure fixes the interest rate at 4 1/2 per cent.

The bill will be rushed through the Senate early this week, as it is essential to the third loan campaign, starting next Saturday.

Passes in Short Time.

The House passed the bill in shorter time than any previous important measure.

But there was some undercurrent of sentiment against it despite this.

The outstanding features of the bill are:

- Increases Liberty bond authorizations, \$4,000,000,000, making total authorized \$14,000,000,000.
- Fixes Liberty loan interest rate at 4 1/2 per cent for rest of war.
- Increases authorization of short time certificates by \$4,000,000,000, or to \$8,000,000,000, since America entered the war.
- Creates a fund of 5 per cent of each issue to protect the Liberty bond market, the Secretary of the Treasury being authorized to buy up bonds when he considers necessary.
- Makes future issues, including the next loan, non-convertible, but allows bonds of first two issues to be exchanged for those of the third issue.

PRESIDENT REMITS FINE FOR DRUNKENNESS

A fine of \$200 in addition to dismissal from the service was deemed by President Wilson too great punishment in the case of First Lieut. Amos V. Cooper, Medical Corps, Camp Cody, N. W. court-martialed for drunkenness, so in reviewing the findings today, the President remitted the fine. The dismissal order was sustained.

Other court-martials approved were: First Lieut. Edward J. Cox, 128th Field Artillery, Camp Cody; drunkenness, dismissal; First Lieut. John V. Kelly, 368th Field Artillery, Camp Dix, N. J., absence without leave, dismissal.

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terish; their clothes shriek to command attention; they paint thicker than the chorus; there is a curious something about their walk that suggests blanc mange. Last Sunday, in a certain Preening Promenade, I saw one of these ladies buy a paper. She never glanced at the headlines that told of battle, murder, and sudden death. She discarded the news section of the bulky New York sheet entirely, and turned to the genuine thrills of the fashion page. And, in a voice that suggested early educational gaps, she read to her companion: "Jenny Favros the Bustle." Nothing else from France appealed to her interest.

This is typical of the profiteering peepage, in all the warring countries. Certainly our own women of the smart set have not offended by their extravagance in clothes, to judge by the plaints of dressmakers and women's clothes shops. Or to look at their clothes, for that matter.

Saving a Sordid Business.

But they have been patriotic along the lines of least resistance; how many of them have put their households on a war rationing basis; how many of them have fought against the waste going on in their own kitchens; how many of them have food products weighed, at home, to find out which tradesmen give sixteen ounces to the pound, and which do not?

These measures are dull, if not positively sordid, no becoming uniform cheers the eye, no suave chairman hands out pretty speeches about our magnificently patriotic achievement in listening to a duchess sing charmingly at \$5 per head, or there is no spurge to it like going to the Camouflage Ball as "innocence-at-home."

If we are of the nervous type we have danced and dined, or if we are phlegmatic, we have knitted. Sometimes we have done all three and wondered why, despite these things, the unspeakable Hun still flourished?

A Nation of Pollyannas.

Knitting and croquet have been regarded as the two great safety valves, for the inmates of psychopathic institutions, they are both soothing. It must be due to the soothing influence of the needles that we are becoming a nation of War Pollyannas, "just feeling" that everything is coming out splendidly. There must be fresh effort in saving and transporting food to France, we must, as the wife of our Secretary of State has said, "Save every hour of the day,"

Send for

Swift & Company's 1918 Year Book

It shows that Swift & Company sells the meat from a steer for less money than the live steer cost!

Proceeds from the sale of the hide, fat, and other by-products covered all expense of dressing, refrigeration, freight, selling expense and the profit of \$1.29 per steer as shown by Swift & Company's 1917 figures as follows:

Average price paid for live cattle, per 100 lbs.	\$84.45
Average price received for meat	68.97
Average price received for by-products	24.09
Total received	93.06
This leaves for expenses and profit	8.61
Of which the profit per steer was	1.29

There are many other interesting and instructive facts and figures in the Year Book.

We want to send our 1918 Year Book, to anyone, anywhere—free for the asking. Address Swift & Company, Union Stock Yards, Chicago.

Swift & Company, U. S. A.