

## The Bemidji Daily Pioneer

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## The Weekly Pioneer

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## War in the Air.

From dusk till dawn a dozen searchlights sweep the sky from the top of the Eiffel Tower, and other shafts of light rise from the roof of the Automobile club. It is the latest form of reconnaissance in the newest type of warfare. For Paris can no longer rely on her girdle of forts. Attack may come from the clouds. At any moment those beams may show a fleet of Zeppelin airships from Berlin armed, armored and loaded with deadly bombs. What then? There would roar up into the sky a swarm of French aeroplanes, and the prophecy of Tennyson would be fulfilled in a "rain of ghastly dew, from the nations' airy navies grappling in the central blue." The outcome can only be guessed at. There

are no precedents. But the story of the French aviator who was reported to have destroyed a Zeppelin on the frontier at the outbreak of hostilities shows the tactics we may expect from the French air corps. There are more than 2,000 trained aviators in the French army. And every one of them is said to be pledged to sacrifice his life at any moment. These men are fanatics who will hesitate at nothing. A French aeroplane carries one or two men, and one quick-firing gun, and costs \$10,000. In the brutal arithmetic of war airship for aeroplane represents a rare bargain. It need surprise no one if, the moment a Zeppelin craft is discerned above the horizon of Paris, or of any other French city or encampment a French flier rises above it, poises like an eagle over his quarry, and then, with all power on, drives his plane head first into the great bulk of the enemy, spilling himself and his 25 foe-men to the earth in a tangle of wreckage. And if the first man misses his aim or is dropped by a bullet or shell, there may be another and another until the German war balloon is destroyed or every available plane is driven from the air lanes. There are land defenses, in the form of rapid-fire guns mounted to sweep the sky; but French MEN rather than artillery will be the most dependable protection against an air foe. What may happen in Paris may happen anywhere in this unparalleled war. The first big issue to be settled is the mastery of the sea, which may be determined at any hour by a decisive clash of the British and German fleets. But the fighting airships and the scouting aeroplanes are likely to be the real arbiters of sea sovereignty. The Zeppelins carry enough high-power explosives to blow up battleships by hovering over them

at a great height and dropping bombs on their decks. If the British fleet is to defeat the German, or even preserve itself intact without a fight, in spite of its superior water strength, it must be shielded from such an attack. For that purpose the battleships may carry aeroplanes intended primarily for scouting, but many of them fitted with small guns for offense. There are believed to be fifteen German Zeppelins in commission, each capable of a continuous cruise at a speed of 50 to 60 miles an hour. Germany has about the same number of dirigibles of a non-rigid type. France has about 20 dirigibles, greatly inferior to the enemy's. Russia has 18, Austria seven, and Great Britain seven, on none of which much reliance can be placed in a contest with Zeppelins. All the warring nations except Germany must depend chiefly on aeroplanes. Of these craft France has the best, and the largest number, though her 1,100 are nearly matched by Germany's fleet. France, moreover, is admitted to have superior aviators. Austria has perhaps 400 war aeroplanes, Russia 800 and Britain 400. When the history of 1914 is written, the historians will have much to say of these "airy navies" and their contributions to the glories and horrors of war.

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 EDITORIAL EXPLOSIONS  
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 At last St. Paul has put one over that makes Minneapolis look like a deuce in a whist game. The Saintly City was the home, for a time, of King Albert of Belgium, and its citizens think they are directly responsible for every Belgian victory. Fairmont Sentinel.

That was evidently a fine trip recently taken by the Northern Min-

nesota editors. They had as guests many of the quill pushers from the south half of the state, and what those Southern Minnesota boys saw up north was a revelation to them. Northern Minnesota is yet in its infancy in development, but it has a great future, for its possibilities are many.—Browns Valley Tribune.

Editor Hitchcock of the Hibbing Tribune has successfully made the automobile trip from Hibbing to Bemidji. It took him four hours and he only encountered four miles of bad road and that will be fixed up this summer. Truly Northern Minnesota is growing. Five years ago an Indian couldn't have gotten from Hibbing to Bemidji on foot to say nothing of an automobile negotiating the trip.—Virginia Enterprise.

The visit of the Northern Minnesota Editorial association at International Falls, Spooner, Baudette and Warroad was a revelation to the scribes and the members of their respective families who took the trip. Not only were all happy over the fine welcome accorded on every hand but the wealth and prosperity found in the extreme north of our state was good to behold. Thought but a few years old the towns above mentioned have grown to be among the best in the state and it won't be long before the central and southern cities and villages will have to doff their hats to their northern sisters.—Cambridge Independent-Press.

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 HORNET  
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 Herman Thom has been cutting grain for some of his neighbors. Miss Lillian MacGregor left on Monday for her home at Baudette. Among those who went to Blackduck on Monday were Mrs. Torsten

Grouseth and son George, Miss Alta Bateman and J. E. Bogart.

Spear Bros. of Shooks are putting up hay on shares, on the Winan meadow.

Arnie Peltier and Oliver Horton are painting the Winan school. J. D. Bogart made a trip through

Inez, Kelliher and Shooks Wednesday, on school business.

Fire losses and the cost of fire prevention cost the United States more each year than the total value of its production of gold, silver, copper and petroleum.

## Saturday

## Sale of Sample Night Wear



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Ladies' Outing Gowns, Children's Outing Gowns, Ladies' Out-door Sleeping Garments, Children's Sleeping Garments, all at.....

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## GOODS DELIVERED

Two more days of This Great Sale after which all goods left will be packed and shipped.

Get your Christmas presents at cost, chinaware, silverware, leather goods, hand bags, jewelry, dry goods, toys etc, every thing at cost and a good many articles at less than cost.

Kitchen utensils at 4c and 7c, tables full. Dishes at 4c and 7c, tables full, new line in gold and white going at cost.

Remember two more days of this closing out sale, everything at cost.

Sale Closes Monday Night