The Death of Mr. J. L. Hall

IT is with regret that we have to record the tragic death of Mr. John L. Hall, which occurred on the evening of Christmas Day in London. It appears that Mr. Hall, who will be remembered as the proprietor of the Hall Flying School at Hendon, had suffered very severely from neuralgia during the last four years.

Crash at Capetown

A BRIEF cablegram from Capetown states that as a result of a crash on December 27, four persons were killed. It appears that an aeroplane was being used for joyrides and on the third trip the machine crashed into a tall sewerage chimney and then dropped to the ground, where it immediately burst into flames. All efforts to quell the conflagration proved unavailing until the fire brigade arrived. The occupants, consisting of the pilot, Captain Hemming, D.F.C., two lady passengers, and a child, were killed.

"Airship Flights of Fact and Fancy"

AIR-COMMODORE E. M. MAITLAND, C.M.G., D.S.O., A.F.C., has consented to give the annual juvenile lecture at 3 p.m., on the afternoon of Tuesday, January 11, at the Royal Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, on "Airship Flights of Fact and Fancy." The lecture will be very fully illustrated with lantern slides. Tickets for the children of members and their friends may be obtained from the Secretary, Royal Aeronautical Society, 7, Albemarle Street, London, W. 1.

German's New Anti-Aeroplane Gun

IN connection with the resignation of the French Minister of War it is stated that the French Intelligence Service ascertained that among the new types of machine-guns evolved by the Germans was a heavy machine-gun for use against aeroplanes flying low over the infantry lines, and also against tanks. It was tested in August, 1918, at the trial grounds at Ham. The two barrels moved together, but were controlled by a single trigger, which in one model was placed between the barrels and in another beneath the right barrel. It was swung on a pivot mounted on a heavy stand.

Although in the final German retreat in 1918, the battlefields were scoured in search of these new types of weapon, none was ever captured, and none was among the 125,000 machine-guns surrendered under the terms of the Armistice. The French Government possess reliable information that they have been further improved and manufactured. It is this knowledge which, in part, prompted M. Lefèvre to resign rather than to agree to the proposals of his colleagues for the reduction of the French Army under the new Bill.

More Hidden Stores in Germany

FROM a message emanating from Detmold (Lippe) it appears that aviation stores to the value of a million marks were discovered on December 15, in a wood near Bad Salzoflen. Evidently the stores, including eight large crates containing 8 aeroplane motors, propeller parts, etc., formerly belonging to the Army, and ordered to be destroyed by the Inter-Allied commission, were to be removed elsewhere. They were all seized by the authorities.

The "L 120" goes to Italy

THE Zeppelin "L 120," which is said to have taken part in three raids on London, and allotted to Italy under the Treaty of Versailles, arrived over Rome on the afternoon of Christmas Day, having left its shed at Staaken, near Berlin, on the previous evening.

The Michelin Cup for Commercial Machines

FOR this year's competition for the Michelin Cup and the eighth (and last) of the series of prizes of 20,000 francs, a course of 3,000 kilometres round France has been mapped out, starting from and finishing at one of the aerodromes near Versailles (Buc, Villacoublay, Toussus, Châteaufort). The winner will be the pilot who, before January 1, 1922, covers the course at the highest speed practicable for commercial aviation. Stops will have to be made at the following points:—Amiens, Châlons, Saint-Dizier, Gray, Joigny, Vienne, Nimes, Pau, St.-André-de-Cubzac, Romorantin, Angers, Evreux, Saint-Inglevert (8 kilometres from Calais) and Versailles (Buc, Villacoublay, Toussus, Châteaufort).

The Panama Canal and Aerial Attack

IT is evident that the effective work of bombarding squadrons in the War is not being lost sight of in American military councils. The latest indication of this is the announcement that a Bill will shortly be introduced into Congress by the Fortifications Committee to make the Panama Canal impregnable against attack from the air, land or sea.

COMPANY MATTERS

A. V. Roe and Co.

DIVIDEND on the ordinary shares of 14 per cent. for the year ended April 30, and a further dividend of 3½ per cent. on the participating preference shares, making 13½ per cent. for the year.

S. Smith and Sons (M.A.), Ltd.

THE net profit for the year ended July 31, 1919, after providing for excess profits duty (estimated) and income-tax, was £59,444, plus £8,344 brought forward, making £67,789. Dividends absorbed £39,375, directors' fees £1,500, carried forward £26,914.

The net profit for the year to July 31, 1920, after providing for all necessary charges, estimated liabilities for corporation tax, income tax, and adjustment in connection with excess profits duty, is £98,337, plus balance brought forward, £26,914, making £125,251. Interim dividend on ordinary shares absorbed £15,750, directors' fees £1,750, leaving available £91,451. The works are now fully organised to manufacture various products under most favourable circumstances, and branches and connections throughout the world have all been extended and the whole cost has been charged against revenue. The directors do not consider it in the best interests of the company at present to recommend a further dividend on ordinary shares. In view of the bankers declining to grant further facilities, the Board has decided to create debentures to secure £600,000. It cannot at present be decided as to whether these debentures in whole or part will be offered for subscription or used as security for present loans and obtaining such further advances as may be necessary to carry over period until stocks can be reduced.

NEW COMPANY REGISTERED

CONTROLS, LTD. Office: 66, Piccadilly, W.—Capital £1,000, in £1 shares. Makers of and dealers in flexible wire and rod controls for internal combustion engines, etc. W. M. Rolph (Governing Director).

AERONAUTICAL PATENT SPECIFICATIONS

Abbreviations: cyl. = cylinder; I.C. = internal combustion; m. = motors

The numbers in brackets are those under which the Specifications will be printed and abridged, etc.

APPLIED FOR IN 1916

Published January 6, 1920

18,274. V. C. RICHMOND. Gas-stopping linings for airships, etc. (154,942.)

APPLIED FOR IN 1919

Published January 6, 1920

21,109. A. L. MCKELVEY. Aircraft. (154,970.)
22,392. G. CAPRONI. Flying-machines. (132,524.)
22,904. P. W. SCHOLLAR and E. R. CALTHROP'S AERIAL PATENTS. Parachutes. (155,041.)
32,105. E. S. DARLEY and E. W. ENGLAND. Horizontally-arranged self-feathering propeller. (155,115.)

If you require anything pertaining to aviation, study "FLIGHT'S" Buyers' Guide and Trade Directory, which appears in our advertisement pages each week (see pages xvii and xviii).

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