

AIRSHIP NEWS.

A Big German Airship.

IN a letter to the Press, Baron v. Roenne gives some interesting particulars regarding a proposed aerial liner designed by Herr Albert Wetzel, of Stuttgart. It will be 984 ft. long, 65½ ft. in diameter, and the envelope is to be of a magnalium alloy, with a capacity of 3,031,216 cubic ft. The builder intends to fit the airship with motors of 1,200-h.p., with which he proposes to attain a speed of from 45 to 55 miles per hour.

According to the calculations, the airship will possess a total lifting power of 103¼ tons. A vessel of such dimensions would weigh at least 75 tons, leaving a margin of 28¼ tons for cargo. It is plain, however, that it would be possible to carry 400 passengers on board.

Austrian Military Dirigible.

THE Austrian military authorities are now possessed of a dirigible of the Parseval type, constructed in Austria from plans drawn up by Major Parseval. The dimensions of the envelope are 49 metres long and 10 metres diam. at the largest part, the capacity being 2,400 cubic metres. The motor weighs 400 kilogs. and develops 60 h.p. The first ascent on the 26th ult. was very satisfactory, the airship manœuvring over Fischamend, about twenty-five kiloms. from Vienna, for about half an hour. Snowstorms delayed the trials for a few days, but on the 1st inst. a seven hours' trip was safely negotiated, the dirigible first traversing Vienna, then flying on to Schönbrunn, where the Emperor Francis Joseph is staying for the winter, and finally spending the remaining time in cruising over the country round about the Austrian



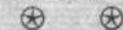
FRENCH ARMY AND AEROPLANES.

THAT the French Government is seriously turning its attention to the development of the aeroplane for military purposes is shown by the fact that three Henry Farman biplanes, a Wright biplane, and a Bleriot monoplane have been actually ordered, while experiments, at the suggestion of the Minister of War, are to be carried out on two Antoinette monoplanes fitted with machine guns. In addition to these machines, the French War Office is also negotiating for the purchase of a Voisin machine. In each case the purchase contract stipulates that an Engineer officer must be taught to pilot the machine, and when they have been thoroughly trained



MUNICIPAL ENCOURAGEMENT IN FRANCE.

A BIG scheme for the encouragement of aviation by the municipal authorities of Paris is being proposed by M. Henri Turot. The idea is that a new department in the civic administration should be formed for the purpose of controlling and awarding the prize of £4,000 which it is suggested should be offered by the Parisian municipal authorities annually for improvements in aeroplane con-



Imperial Dignity for German Aero Club.

So enormously has aeronautics in Germany progressed that H.I.M. the German Emperor has caused to be issued a patent conferring the privilege of prefixing the word "Imperial" to the title of the German Aero Club. This dignity has only been accorded previously to the Imperial Automobile Club and the Imperial Yachting Club. His Majesty has also shown his

capital. The total distance traversed was about 260 kiloms.

"Gross I" in Commission Again.

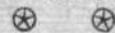
THE German military dirigible "Gross I" is now fit for service again, the damage occasioned by her tumble into the Stettin, near Wollin, last September, having now been made good. Advantage has been taken of the opportunity to incorporate one or two modifications into the vessel. She has been lengthened by 8 metres and more powerful motors have been fitted, so that she is now practically identical with "Gross II." As soon as her trials have been completed she will take up her station at Cologne.

Forlanini Dirigible.

SEVERAL trials have recently been made with the airship "Leonardo da Vinci," designed and constructed by the Italian engineer, Forlanini. Piloted by the designer, assisted by Capt. del Fabbro, the airship made flights of about twenty minutes' duration on the 27th and 28th ult. On each occasion a considerable speed was attained.

Russia and Germany have Scareship Visit.

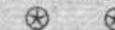
GREAT BRITAIN does not appear to be singular in having the attentions of a "scareship." Recently an announcement has been made that a mysterious aerial craft, presumed to be Swedish, has been hovering over Reval at a height of about 1,200 ft. It disappeared in the direction of the Finnish coast. Considerable excitement has also been caused in Russia by reports that another airship has been seen manœuvring over the Russo-German frontier.



they in their turn will act as instructors to their fellow officers. With regard to the Wright flyer, the French Army already possesses a fully qualified pilot in Capt. Lucas-Gerardville, who was trained by Wilbur Wright himself, and it is probable that he will be placed in charge of the Military Aviation School as chief instructor. It is reported from Paris that already secret trials have been made with machine guns fitted to aeroplanes, and so successful have they proved that the military authorities have decided to divert a good deal of their attention from dirigibles and give greater consideration to the heavier-than-air machine.



struction and skill in the navigation of the air. The conditions of the proposed tests will be very severe; 4,800 feet is mentioned as the minimum altitude to be attained; the machine should be capable of carrying a photographer as well as the pilot, be capable of flying in any weather, and able to stop or slow down in order to allow the operator to make his observations.



personal interest in the welfare of the Club by designing a special costume for the use of its members. This action of the Emperor William is bound to give further impetus to both the aeroplane and airship movements in Germany. May we hope, with a view of giving the home industry a help, that a similar honour may be accorded to our British National Society of Encouragement, the Aero Club of the United Kingdom?