



Parade of Massed Drums.

THE "Mounted Gymkhana and Air Pageant" organised by the Royal Air Force, Halton, last week turned out to be a much more ambitious affair than probably most people had imagined. In point of fact, the pageant was worthy of being classed among the great flying events of the season, and in addition to the flying items there were a number of terrestrial attractions which were extremely interesting and provided a welcome diversion to those of us who have had rather a surfeit of flying this summer.

As was to be expected, the organisation was very good; the various events were run off almost according to schedule, and there were no casualties in spite of the fact that the aerodrome at Halton is not exactly the best in the country.

The programme commenced in the morning with heats for light aeroplanes, of which quite a large number had arrived to take part, including such well-known pilots as Miss O'Brien, Miss Spooner, Capt. Stack, Capt. Broad, and Flt.-Lt. Rose, all on "Moths"; Flt.-Lt. Bonham-Carter on the Parnall "Imp" Mr. Cazalet and "Harold Brooklyn," on "Widgeon," Flt.-Lt. Thorn on the R.A.E. "Avian," and Mr. Bruce on a D.H. 53. Among other aerial visitors was Mr. C. F. Uwins on the Bristol 101.

In the afternoon the first event was an exhibition of individual aerobatics by Flt.-Lts. Arnold and le Poer Trench, on Armstrong-Whitworth "Siskin" 3A's with "Jaguar" engines. This event was followed by a display of drill and manoeuvres in the air by five "Siskins" of No. 41 (Fighter) squadron. The formation was led by Flt.-Lt. G. A. Bouchier, D.F.C. An air combat between Flt.-Lts. le Poer Trench and L. O. Brown, both on "Siskins," followed next,

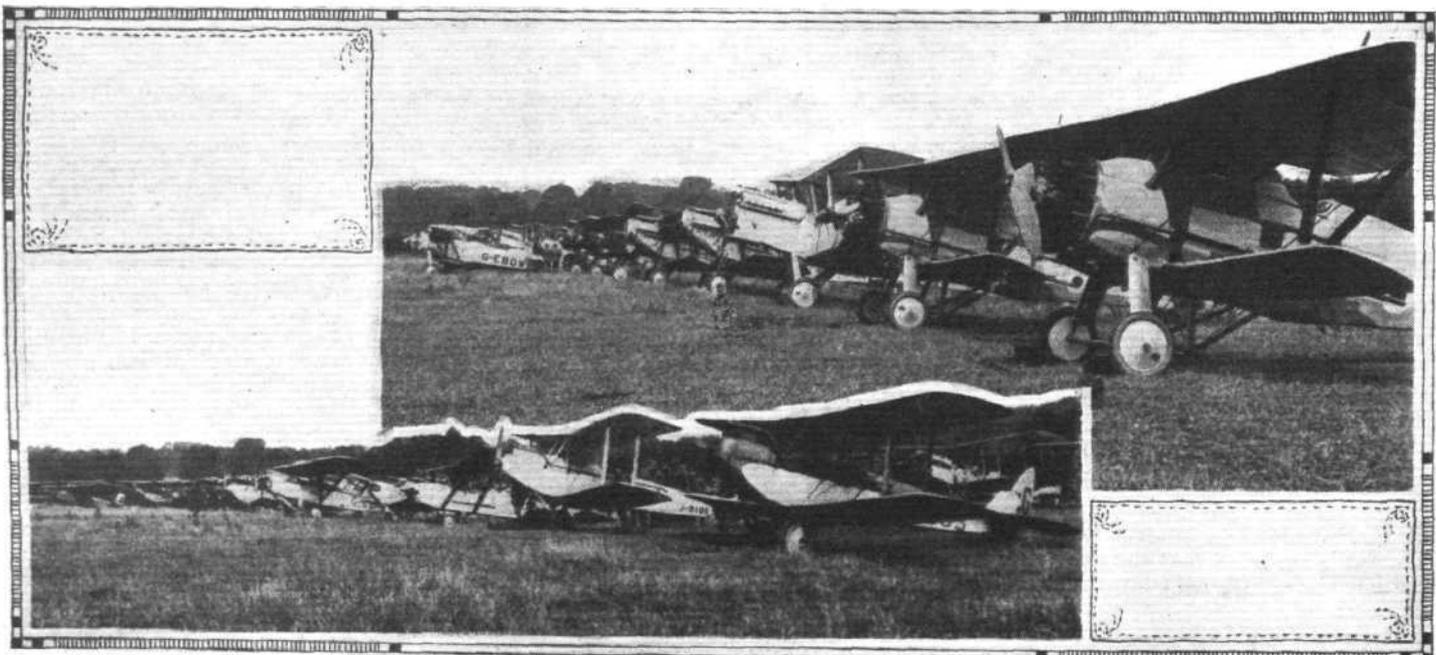
after which a little comic relief was supplied by "Air Marshal Sandbags," who descended upon the locality by parachute. The "pre-tea time" programme, as far as flying events were concerned, concluded with a light 'plane race for lady pilots, for a challenge cup and prizes presented by Sir Charles Wakefield.

After tea there was another light 'plane race, open to members of light 'plane clubs and to private owners. This was for a challenge cup presented by Mr. De Fraine and prizes presented by Sir Charles Wakefield. One of our photographs shows the finish of this race, and from this it will be seen that the finish was a close one, thanks once more to the almost uncanny skill of Captains Goodman Crouch and Dancy.

A competition entitled "Aerial Tennis," in which aeroplanes, pilots, ladies and horsemen figured, was less amusing than might have been expected. On the other hand, the demonstrations given by Capt. Broad on a "Gipsy Moth," and Capt. Stack on a "Cirrus Moth" were very spectacular, but in the hands of such expert pilots it was a little difficult to know exactly how much was due to slots and how much to "hands."

Once more No. 41 (Fighter) squadron contributed an item, in which Flight-Lieut. F. K. Damant, D.F.C., and Flying-Officer C. S. Staniland gave a display of highly advanced individual aerobatics on "Siskins."

The last flying event on the programme was the destruction by aircraft of a desert stronghold. In this a "hostile native tribe" (what *should* we do without "hostile native tribes"?) was known to have taken refuge. Owing to the nature of the



THE HALTON PAGEANT: Line-up of service machines and visitors' (civil) machines.

[ "FLIGHT" Photographs