

# FLIGHT

The  
AIRCRAFT ENGINEER  
AND AIRSHIPS

First Aeronautical Weekly in the World. Founded January, 1909

Founder and Editor: STANLEY SPOONER

A Journal devoted to the Interests, Practice and Progress of Aerial Locomotion and Transport

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE ROYAL AERO CLUB OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

No. 1169. (Vol. XXIII. No. 21.)

MAY 22, 1931

Weekly, Price 6d.  
Post free, 7½d. Abroad, 8d.

Editorial Offices: 36, GREAT QUEEN STREET, KINGSWAY, W.C.2

Telephone: (2 lines), Holborn 3211 and 1884.

Telegrams: Truditur, Westcent, London.

Annual Subscription Rates, Post Free.

United Kingdom .. 33s. 0d. United States .. \$8-75.  
Other Countries .. 35s. 0d.\*

\* Foreign subscriptions must be remitted in British currency (See last Editorial Page.)

## CONTENTS

	PAGE
Editorial Comment:	
Our Airship Policy .. .. .	441
Tour of France .. .. .	443
Speed .. .. .	446
Stockholm Aero Exhibition .. .. .	447
Private Flying and Club News .. .. .	451
Gliding .. .. .	454
Royal Aero Club Official Notices .. .. .	455
Airisms from the Four Winds .. .. .	456
Air Transport .. .. .	458
Airport News .. .. .	459
Our Airship Policy .. .. .	460
"Z.M.C.2" Metal Airship .. .. .	461
Royal Air Force .. .. .	465
New Companies .. .. .	466

## EDITORIAL COMMENT



THE Government has at last announced what is to be its policy with regard to continuing airship work. In short, it amounts to holding a watching brief while Germany and the United States push ahead and see what future lies before the airship. We are not to close down, but we are not to push

ahead. Above all, we are not to spend much money. The National Physical Laboratory is to continue its investigations into airship problems which have not yet been fully explored. R100 will be kept in flying trim and will be used to verify the results of the laboratory conclusions, and also to keep the crew and airship staff in practice. She is not to undertake any ambitious flights, and she is not to be enlarged or otherwise structurally altered. Apparently, though Mr. Montague did not actually commit himself on that subject, she is to continue to use hydrogen, and will not be changed over to helium. Thus, Great Britain will not drop out of the airship movement. We shall gradually increase our knowledge, perhaps very materially increase it, and we shall keep the crew of R100 and the maintenance staff at Cardington in working practice. All this we shall get for £140,000 per annum.

The greatest airship enthusiast could, in present circumstances, hardly have hoped for more than this. The greatest airship pessimist could hardly have expected that we should do less. The Cabinet seems to have chosen the perfect middle course, and they have gained the approval and support of the other front benches, notably of Sir Samuel Hoare and Sir John Simon. In the course of the debate on the subject in the House of Commons it became increasingly obvious that no other course was really possible. The Prime Minister said that there were three possible courses of action. One was to set up the 1924-30 programme and continue to build new ships, and so on. The second was to scrap everything; and the middle course was to keep the organisation going more in the nature of a scientific investigation than anything else. No doubt the

### DIARY OF CURRENT AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Club Secretaries and others desirous of announcing the dates of important fixtures are invited to send particulars for inclusion in this list:—

- 1931
- May 23. Start of Whitsun Continental Cruise, Heston.
  - May 23-25. Inter-Club Gliding Rally, Balsdean, Sussex.
  - May 24. N.F.S. Air Pageant, Nottingham.
  - May 25. Scarborough Ae. C. Opening Meeting.
  - May 25-26. Northamptonshire Ae.C. Flying Meeting at Sywell.
  - May 28-June 13. Royal Tournament at Olympia.
  - May 30. Air Union Reception of Capt. Costes, Croydon Aerodrome.
  - May 30. Heston-Newcastle Air Race, for "Newcastle Evening World" Trophy.
  - May 31. N.F.S. Air Pageant, Sherburn-in-Fimmet, Yorks.
  - June 2. R.A.F. Middle East Dinner at Connaught Rooms.
  - June 3. Reception to Delegates of International Air Navigation Commission, at Park Lane Hotel.
  - June 5-6. Scottish Flying Club Air Display, Glasgow.
  - June 6. Brooklands Air Display.
  - June 6. Lincolnshire Ae. C. Meeting at Cleethorpes.
  - June 7. N.F.S. Air Pageant, Hull.
  - June 8. International Rally, Bucharest.
  - June 9. Air League "Speed" Ball at the Dorchester, Park Lane, W.
  - June 13-14. Leicestershire Ae.C. "At Home" at Desford Aerodrome.
  - June 20. Flying Display and Air Pageant, Bristol Airport.
  - June 21. N.F.S. Air Pageant, Reading.
  - June 26. R.A.F. Dinner Club Annual Dinner, Connaught Rooms.
  - June 27. Royal Air Force Display, Hendon.
  - July 10-19. Circuit of Italy.
  - July 22. Household Brigade Flying Club Meeting, Heston.
  - July 25. King's Cup Race.
  - July 25-Aug. 9. Rhön Gliding Competitions, Germany.
  - Sept. 5. Haldon Flying Meeting.
  - Sept. 12. Schneider Trophy Contest.