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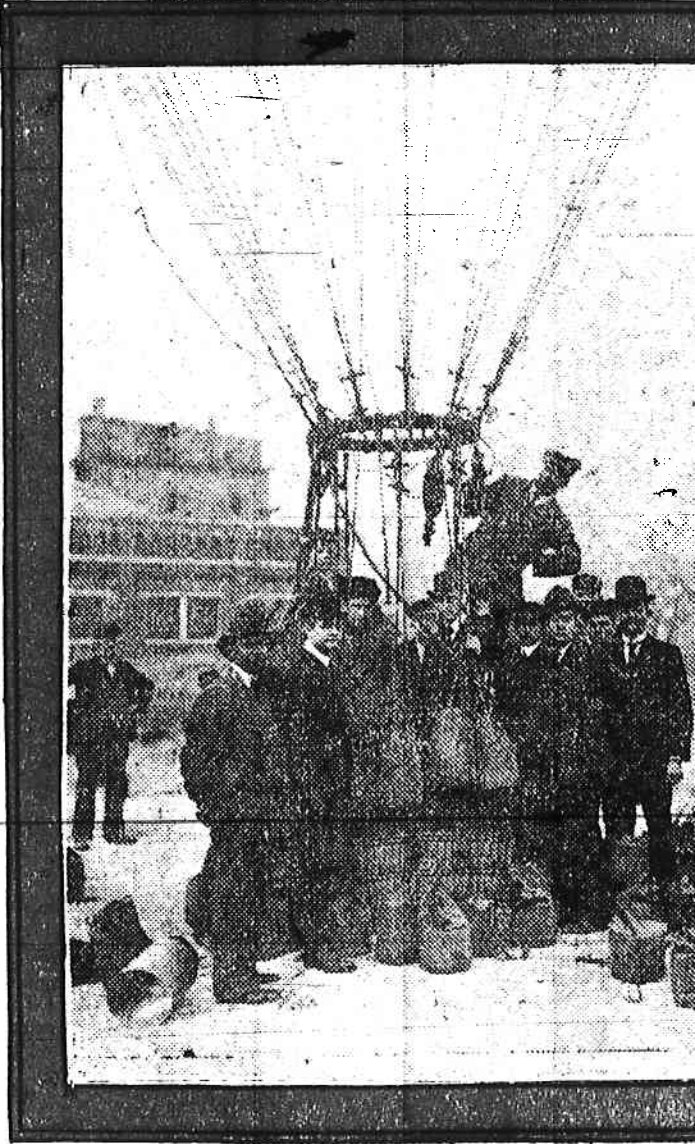


*Cortlandt F. Bishop,
Pres. Aero Club of
America.*

NOW that the first great strides toward the conquest of the air have been made and we are at the dawn of what future historians will designate as the aerial period in the world's progress, imaginative writers are wont to outstrip time and picture marvelous feats accomplished in the air. We are given the details of an aerial battle fought between fleets of airships, and no romance in the popular magazines is up to date unless it contains a thrilling elopement by airship.

Such speculations are entertaining despite the evident remoteness of their fulfillment, but sufficient unto the day are the wonders soon to be seen right here in Indiana. If it filled you with delight to see one dirty old balloon go up back in your childhood days at the county fair, surely your cup of joy and enthusiasm will overflow when the ten or fifteen monster gas bags entered in the Aero Club of America's national "derby of the clouds" majestically sail their trackless course over Hoosierdom early in June.

UNTIL after next June 5, the date on which the great balloon race for the championship of the United States will be started, Indianapolis holds the title of "aerial center of the world."



*Group of Indianapolis
Aeronauts Ready For
an Ascension.*

handle the valves, and the assistant to read the aneroid, compass and barometer. Messrs. Link, Irwin and Fleher have the night trip yet to make in order to be qualified as pilots in the Aero Club of America. These trips probably will be made within the next week or ten days. Mr.

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UNTIL after next June 5, the date on which the great balloon race for the championship of the United States will be started. Indianapolis holds the title of "aerial center of the country." The eyes of the scientific world will be focused upon the trial ascensions and the big contest.

Probably no other one city in the country has more local amateur balloonists at this time. Situated far inland, as remote from great bodies of water with their wide expanse of danger to the venturesome aeronaut as from ocean tide and mountain air currents, and with manufacturers who have already solved the problem of a satisfactory balloon gas, Indianapolis presents many of the advantages which will not be overlooked as the sport of conquering the atmosphere gains headway.

After a hard contest between Indianapolis, St. Louis, Kansas City, Denver and Milwaukee, during which time it was generally conceded that St. Louis would be the fortunate city, the Aero Club finally gave to the Indianapolis Aero Club (later merged into the Aero Club of Indiana) this chance of pushing to the front in the field of aeronautics. It is estimated that, owing to the wonderful progress recently made in the science of aeronautics, even greater crowds will be drawn to Indianapolis to come in close touch with these practical demonstrations of man's "dominion over the fish of the sea, the beasts of the earth and the fowls of the air" than witnessed the international race at St. Louis.

There will be an immense balloon shed erected at the speedway containing twelve compartments or stalls, giving each entrant a separate stall for his balloon. Each balloon will have an individual guard. An application has been made to Capt. Tyndall for one company of light artillery to patrol the grounds, guarding the balloons

handle the valves, and the compass and barometer.

have the night trip yet to be made as pilots in the Aero Club. The trip probably will be made within a few days. Fisher has probably had more experience in the mechanics of any member of the club. He has made his first ascensions in the time Mr. Fisher has made his first ascensions and four abroad. Dr. Fisher has made several ascensions in the city.

The Indianapolis, the new material, hemp and down-turned seams in the basket and Mr. Irvin, has a capacity of lifting eight people, and having blanket closets. During the race will have a capacity of lifting capacity of 3,200.

Italian hemp. The basket will have a capacity of lifting eight people, and having blanket closets. During the race will have a capacity of lifting capacity of 3,200.

Novel Social

A novel christening ceremony will be held shortly after its completion. It will contain a number of ladies and gentlemen given in the huge hamper.

There are seven clubs in the city of America, the Aero Club of Indiana are: President, Howard C. Marmon; secretary, R. J. Irvin; super-

GROUP OF
AERONAUTS
AN ASCENSION

speedway containing twelve compartments or stalls, giving each entrant a separate stall for his balloon. Each balloon will have an individual guard. An application has been made to Capt. Tyndall for one company of light artillery to patrol the grounds, guarding the balloons against the proximity of smokers. At the St. Louis races the government sent 200 infantrymen to police the grounds.

As the rules of the contest require that none but registered pilots shall enter these races, and as there are only twenty-one registered pilots in the United States, there can not be a large number of entrants. The entries do not close until May 15, but up to this time balloons have been entered from New York, St. Louis, Buffalo, Philadelphia and Indianapolis. Indianapolis has two entrants, the Indianapolis, owned by Dr. Goethe Link and R. J. Irvin, and the Indiana, owned by Carl G. Fisher. These balloons are both being made in Indianapolis under the personal supervision of G. L. Bumbaugh, a professional aeronaut who is the superintendent of the Aero Club of Indiana.

Among the other contestants will be some of the most prominent aeronauts in the world. G. H. Curtiss, who won the Scientific American trophy in his aeroplane June Bug, and who, with Capt. Alexander Bell, has just completed some wonderful flights in Nova Scotia, placing his machine a close rival to that of the Wright brothers, will be in attendance. Capt. Bell will also be here. Capt. Thomas S. Baldwin, who probably knows more about "lighter-than-air" crafts than any other man in the United States, will enter the contest. Cortland Field Bishop, the most prominent man in aeronautics this side of the Atlantic and president of the Aero Club of America, and A. H. H. Forbes, first vice president and head of the contest committee of the Aero Club of America, will represent their organization. Mr. Forbes was in the balloon "Cannibal" with Augustus Post during the international balloon race which started last year, when it burst a hole in the air. This balloon has since been repaired and will enter the coming contest. Forbes will be accompanied by Fred H. Bates, captain of Harvard, a distinguished aviator. St. Louis will be represented by Albert C. Lamborn and Eugene Storer, who hope to carry off the prize in craft balloons. A. C. Travis and wife, two well known aviators, are also expected to be here. Charles A. Cook, mentioned in connection with Illinois, will accompany the balloon "Chicago".

of America, the Aero Club largest in membership. The Indiana are: President, C. Howard C. Marmon; secretary, R. J. Irvin; superintendent of balloons, Capt. G. L. Bumbaugh.

Since it is very probable getting the "aeronautic fever" the experience of one who may prove valuable information.

"It is customary to dress get above 4,000 feet the temperature for approximately every 2,000 of course, is varying, but colder than on the earth. Suits and food enough to last guarding against an emergency "wilderness." No matter how wind may be on the earth, a balloon, because the balloons are so light, objects can not be seen at 6,000 or 7,000 feet of height. The State House looks like an ordinary man looks to be a

"Instead of the atmosphere being hazy and cloudy, as the sky over the ground, the air is perfectly clear. The air is perfectly pure and is exactly reversed. The air are over the earth. It is here that the air surrounding our cities is extremely rare air might cause the only noticeable difference is faster and a snapping sound. This snapping is not painful unless, it is possible to hear distinctly. The ticking of a watch is easily heard.

"If a rain cloud is encountered, the balloon is thrown through the cloud in less than a minute. Above 4,000 feet there is a wonderful view. The clouds are seen and the sun and moon are visible. The air is so pure and clear that one can see the mountains and valleys from a distance of 100 miles. The view is simply magnificent. The air is so clear that one can see the mountains and valleys from a distance of 100 miles. The view is simply magnificent.