

WRIGHT'S AIRSHIP IN RAPID FLIGHT

American's Aeroplane Makes
1 8-10 Miles in 1 Minute, 46
Seconds at Le Mans, France.

UNDER PERFECT CONTROL.

Aeronaut Twice Circles Field and
Then Stops His Motor in Front of
Wildly Cheering Spectators.

LE MANS, France, Aug. 8.—Wilbur Wright of Dayton, Ohio, made a flight of three kilometers (about one and eight-tenths miles) with his aeroplane here this afternoon in 1 minute and 46 seconds.

No attempt was made for a distance record, the only object of the flight being to try out the aeroplane. While flying through the air Wright demonstrated, or so it appeared to the spectators, that he was absolute master of the airship, first soaring, then shooting gracefully downward, and then mounting again at will until finally, after completing two circles, he came down easily to earth.

The performance was greeted with a burst of cheers from a small number of people invited to view the experiment. Wright was warmly congratulated by all the spectators, including a few French aeronauts, two Russian Army officers, and a number of other experts, who styled the flight a wonderful exhibition of aviation.

Weather conditions for the test were splendid. The sky was blue and without a cloud, and a gentle northwest breeze was blowing.

It was shortly before 3 o'clock this afternoon when the aeroplane, which is the same as that used in the United States, was brought out of its shed and mounted on a small single-wheeled chariot, which, in turn, was resting on a single rail on the ground.

After a preliminary test of the apparatus Mr. Wright declared all was ready and took a position beside the motor. By means of a falling weight rigged on a beam erected in the ground and connecting with cords running to it the chariot was started running over the rail, and the aeroplane, thus having been given a forward motion, suddenly left the chariot and ascended like a bird to a height of about forty feet. Then it swerved and turned on its course and sailed up the field.

It dipped gracefully up and down, attaining a height of sixty feet, and then coming down to between thirty and forty feet. Mr. Wright thus twice circled the field, and then, stopping the motor, brought the aeroplane directly in front of the improvised grand stand, which was filled with wildly cheering spectators. The descent was sure and easy and was carried out with great nicety, without causing shock to either the machine or its operator.

Afterward Mr. Wright said: "I am perfectly satisfied with my first flight. I made one or two little mistakes, but I am confident that I will be able to do all I hope for in later trials, probably next week."

The populace of Le Mans is enthusiastic over the experiment. Many youngsters who had not been bidden to witness it were perched in trees surrounding the course and betrayed their presence by spontaneous yells as Mr. Wright sailed by them.