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## The Canadian Engineer

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## THE CONQUEST OF THE AIR.

The balloon race from St. Louis, the attempt of Wellman to cross the Atlantic, and the Belmont Park aviation meet will mark October of 1910 as an eventful month, in which men demonstrated the possibilities of aerial flight.

Walter Wellman in his dirigible balloon failed in his attempt to cross the Atlantic, but the daring flight above the ocean served to impress bird-men with the possibilities of his plans and the probability of its early completion. The failure was an object lesson, and the knowledge gained will be used in perfecting this means of air navigation.

The St. Louis balloon race, which ended in the establishment of a new distance record, was in every way a great success. Ballooning is always a dangerous sport, and the attempt of landing in October in the great north lands in Quebec was a perilous adventure. One of the most attractive incidents of the whole meet was the true-sport-spirit of the competitors, who recognized that it was all in the game; but ballooning as a sport will not be the first pastime which developed commercial possibilities of the art.

The aviation meet at Belmont Park, Long Island, was probably the most successful of its kind, and served to call attention to the scientifically trained men who have to do with aviation, and who are planning and experimenting with appliances to give men greater control of the air, which so far he has but partially mastered. This meet appealed not only to the mechanical and commercial men and the aviator, but it must have had a wonderful influence upon the imagination of the thousands who witnessed the event, when twelve machines, monoplanes and biplanes, were soaring over the field. The most imaginative romance could not be more fascinating than the newspaper report of the close of the meet:—

When dusk began to settle on the aviation field at Belmont Park, Long Island, this afternoon there were twelve aeroplanes in the air at once, and when night shut down two of them were still lost in the black void above. There was no moon, and it was by the most imperceptible glow of the stars that they were first sighted, singing their way back to earth. Something hovered in the air like a bat, growing momentarily larger. Presently there was another blot, a little blacker than the blackness of the background, and both Hoxsey and Johnstone alighted safely in midfield within a few moments of each other.