

Aircraft in the Great War

appoint her supporters—as she has in this war. The aeroplane may develop so rapidly, and may be given such a powerful driving plant, and such efficient sustaining-planes, that it will be able to achieve, in the matter of weight-lifting and radius of action, all that can be obtained with the large airship; and in that case, for purposes of war, the latter will be doomed.

In the large fighting aircraft of the future—the machine that must be used in battle for the delivery of a decisive blow—two features at any rate are essential: the first is speed, which spells the power to out-manœuvre a foe; and the second a capacity to raise heavy weights, which means that large guns may be fitted, and that a craft may be armoured to protect her vital parts.