

ORGANIZING FOR AN ARCTIC TRIP

Navigating and Scientific Staff Named for 1914 Expedition.

Leader of Movement Gives Interview Outlining Details of Programme for Dash.

(Special Dispatch.)

LONDON, Feb. 21. THE organization of the British Antarctic Expedition, 1914, is proceeding apace, and the leader, Mr. J. Foster Stackhouse, F. R. G. S., has made a number of appointments to his navigating and scientific staff.

Lieutenant A. E. Harbord, R. N., who has been lent by the Admiralty, will command the Discovery, Captain Scott's old ship, which Mr. Foster Stackhouse has acquired from the Hudson's Bay Company. Lieutenant Harbord was an executive navigating officer on the Nimrod in the Shackleton Expedition, 1906-8, and has since been employed in the Hydrographic Department of the Admiralty.

The first officer will be a friend of "Little Bowers," who perished with Scott. In the person of Lieutenant Richard H. Garstin, of the Royal Indian Marine, surviving lieutenant on the Northbrook. The navigating officer will be Lieutenant R. Beatty, from the same service, a cousin of Rear Admiral David Beatty. These appointments are subject to the approval of the Director of the Royal Indian Marine.

Chief Petty Officer Tom Green, who sailed with Scott in the Discovery and the Terra Nova, will probably be the boatswain.

Several members of the scientific staff have already been appointed. These include Lord Conington, of the Grenadier Guards, who has done a great deal of military survey work and is a fully qualified surveyor. The Master of Semple, only son of Lord Semple, will be in charge of the meteorological department, the electrical plant, and the motor boat and aeroplane engines. He is a first class mechanic, having served two years in a big motor car works. Meteorology has been his great hobby.

Another officer lent by the Admiralty is Captain A. S. Cantrell, R. N. A., who will act as surgeon. Mr. W. H. Stewart Garnett, M. A., an expert skitter and a qualified marine engineer, whose brother is now serving in the Cambridge boat, and Mr. D. Hector Pearson, an officer in the Essex Territorials, will also join the staff as surveyors.

Mr. Foster Stackhouse, in an interview with our correspondent, said that the expedition is making charting, surveying, explorations and a solution of several important scientific problems its great objects, and in this direction we hope to accomplish sufficient to have the name of the British Antarctic Expedition, 1914, honorably remembered among the expeditions of the past.

"We have mapped out a very big programme, and it will take us three years to complete it. We shall leave England about the beginning of August next for Cape Town. Thence we cross the South Atlantic, taking soundings all the way, calling at Bouvet Island, the Sandwich group, South Georgia and determining the exact position of the Shag Rocks. After calling at the Falklands, the Discovery will proceed to the east side of Grahamland.

"Here I propose to land a party of fifteen men about December 20. Their great task will be to determine a doubt as to the insularity of Grahamland. The existence of a strait behind Grahamland would explain the great accumulation of ice between that land and the Great Barrier. In this important work they will have the assistance of an airman, whose name I am not at liberty to disclose. He will I am convinced, save them much fruitless sledge hauling. They will also carry out a large amount of survey work.

"Meanwhile the Discovery will proceed to the Larsen's Sea and endeavor to find the coast between Grahamland and the base of the last German expedition about 78 deg. south. Returning, after wintering in the ice, we shall pick up the land party about January, 1915, and then endeavor to make Charcot Land. Here we shall winter again and in the following spring go down the coast of King Edward VII. Land to McMurdo Sound, charting and sounding en route. We shall leave McMurdo Sound early in 1917 for New Zealand.

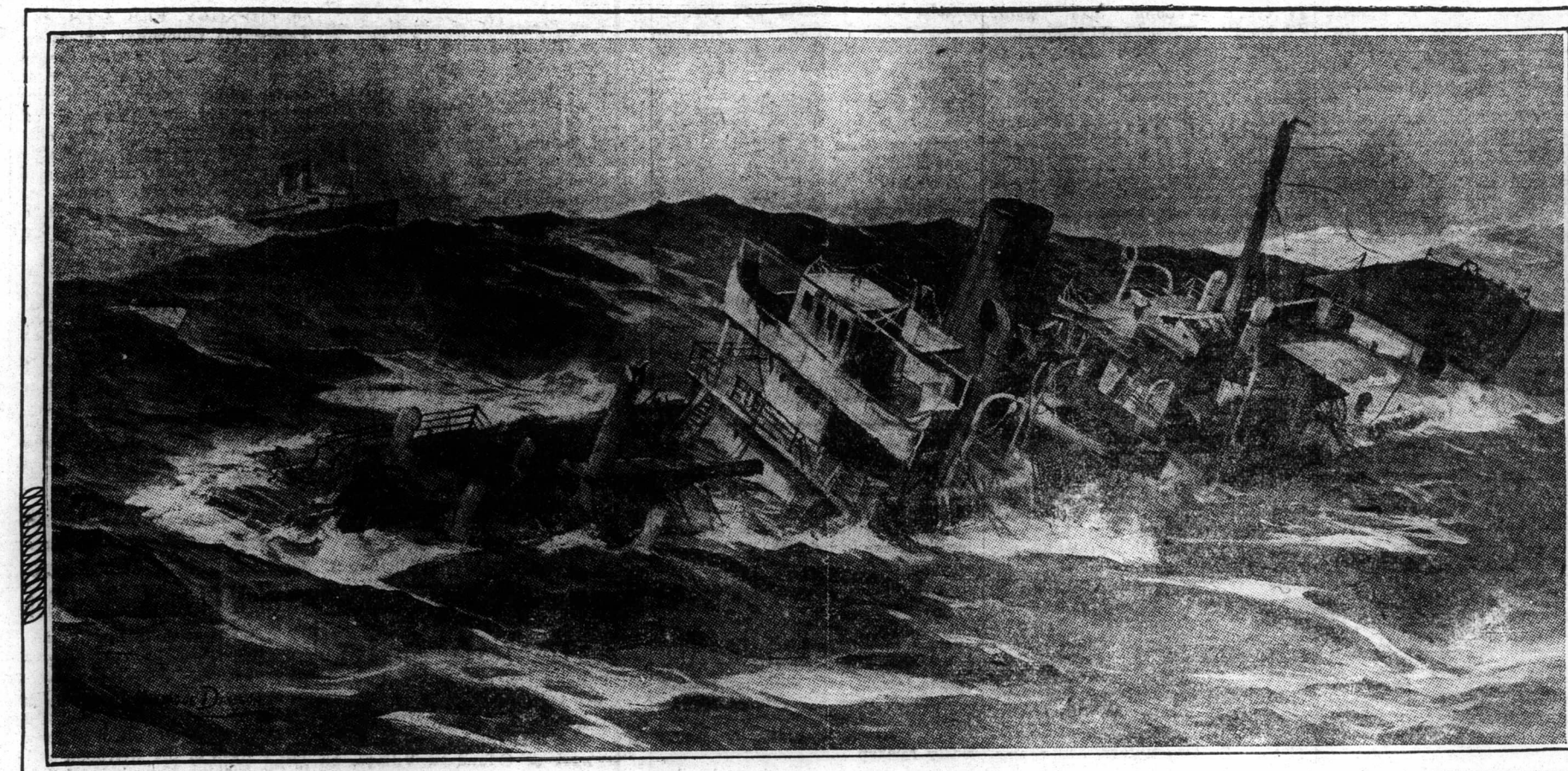
"This programme is, of course, subject to circumstances, and I am not sure whether we shall not send a party across King Edward VII. Land to McMurdo Sound. Several members of the staff are keen on doing this trip. In any case we shall, if successful, have done most of the coast work that remains to be done in the eastern quadrant of Antarctica.

"Apart from the scientific value of this work there are two excellent reasons why Britain should do it. The first is that King Edward VII. Land was discovered by Captain Scott and should be surveyed by his compatriots, and the second is that all the territories between meridians 20 degrees west and 80 deg. east were proclaimed dependencies of the Falkland Islands in 1908.

Lieutenant Harbord, who will command the Discovery, asserted that the programme of exploration should result in very valuable additions to the world's knowledge of Antarctica. He said:—

"I am particularly delighted that Mr. Foster Stackhouse was successful in obtaining the Discovery for the expedition. She is easily the best vessel in the world for work in the polar ice. In fact, I believe she is the only vessel in existence that was specially built for the business. When I remember the discomfort of the old Nimrod, I look forward to my command of the Discovery with great pleasure."

ONE OF THE PERILS OF THE SEA THAT THE NATIONS WILL REMOVE



A FORTUNATE ESCAPE - A TRANSATLANTIC LINER SIGHTS A DERELICT STEAMER IN HER TRACK.

One of the clauses of the international agreement upon the safety of life at sea deals with the necessity for the detection and destruction of derelicts. To illustrate the terrible menace of the derelict the London Sphere publishes the drawing, reproduced herewith, showing a great steamship which is supposed to have sighted just in time a derelict wallowing in her path. Waterlogged and rusty, this perilous object no longer will be allowed to exist when the seafaring nations unite in their work to make the sea lanes safe.

Parliament's Opening Causes London Society To Be Stirring Quite Early

Dancing, Dinners and Other Festivities Are Arranged, with the Year Promising To Be Devoted Largely to the Younger Persons—New Styles from Paris Are Causing a Sensation, Says Special Cable Despatch.

(Special Dispatch.)

LONDON, Feb. 21. NEVER before has the commencement of a Parliamentary session given such a fillip to London life. The excitement in political circles and the knowledge that big things are going to happen have spread beyond the confines of Westminster, and the strings that work the social machine have been hastily pulled by the leaders, who have rushed back from summer climes.

The advent of nearly seven hundred Members of Parliament flocking to town from all parts of the British Isles and the Continent always enlivens London society to some extent, but this time the effect is remarkable. In the words of a well known man about town, "It has created a season out of season." Already arrangements have been made for the coming weeks, and if nothing untoward occurs between now and Easter the season will be one of considerable distinction.

For the first time in four years the season opened without the death of some near relative of the King or Queen, and the political situation alone seems likely to prove a check to the entertaining, as it appears to have ruined the Dublin festivities.

Talking with a leading Irish hostess who came over for the first court, she said:—

"Not for many years has the Irish capital been so gaily as it is at the present moment. Very few of the older houses are occupied by their owners and the hotels are suffering badly. There is no enthusiasm over the castle levees and the number of applications for presentation has been the smallest known. Larkin has frightened society away, but Lord and Lady Ashurst are doing their best to maintain an appearance of gaiety. They have had a couple of big dinners for several small dances as well as a stag ball."

So far as London is concerned, the lap of the gods and the government. At present town houses in the right quarters are scarce and command high prices, a sure sign that there is plenty of money about.

A Young People's Year.

It is to be a young people's year, as is natural, seeing that the Prince of Wales and Princess Mary are at an age to take their places in the society world, and fashion, taking its cue from the court, is to give to youth its social opportunity this year. Society has been middle aged for half a century, since, in fact, King Edward VII. was a stripling and no man had a happy except when he possessed a diamond pin, the gift of the Prince.

The world of fashion is to be young again now, and with the present Prince of Wales taking an active part in the life at court society hopes to be entertained by entering a more brilliant social life. But it must be remembered that gravity is ever the note of the modern English court.

It is almost certain, however, that before going to Paris Queen Mary will give at least one dance at Buckingham Palace, and it is rumored that she intends to dance more herself. Already many young girls in court society who consider themselves entitled to the honor are speculating on whether they will receive the coveted invitation to the Palace dances.

At these informal balls, as opposed to state balls, things are done much as at any big London house, though there is not the promiscuous sitting out on the stairs,

for instance, that there is at private balls. There is always, however, any number of men and therefore few or no wallflowers at the royal dances, for the Queen sets a good example to London hostesses in her endeavors to see that no girl shall be compelled to sit out a dance while others dance.

Ministerial Banquets.

Of course the usual Ministerial banquets on the eve of the assembling of Parliament set the social ball a-rolling. After the banquet the Prime Minister and Mrs. Asquith gave a reception at Downing street, about two thousand of the three thousand invited attending and shaking the hands of the host and hostess, who stood throughout the evening welcoming their guests and smiling as if they thoroughly enjoyed it.

Mrs. Asquith made a fine picture in a dress of black charmeuse with a high collar and tulle of cerise satin velvet draped closely to her slender figure. Sparkling in her hair was a diamond tiara, while stars and clusters of dia-

monds shone upon her corsage. But, of course, last night's court was the first big event of the season, as you already have seen from a special cable despatch. Mrs. Page had more American women present than had been seen at court in many years; last year, there never was more than four at one time. Including Mrs. Page and her daughter-in-law there were seven American women presented at court.

Interesting as showing the new season's modes, some very beautiful dresses were seen. Brocade is still holding its own for trains, the loveliest colors being seen in all sorts of conjunctions—pink, gold, blue and silver white and silver gray and gold and purple and gold; also gauze brocade with Oriental colorings. The tunic of the dresses were all wired out, net taking the place of the chiffon, while lace flounces were worn.

While on the subject of women's dress, many new costumes have just arrived from Paris, but those made of taffeta are expected to find great favor this season.

REMARKABLE WOMAN PLAY-WRIGHT "FOUND" IN PARIS

"La Triomphatrice," by Mlle. Marie Leneru, if Accepted by Comedie Francaise, Will Be the First Play by a Woman in France for Many Years.

(Special Dispatch.)

PARIS, Feb. 21. Mlle. MARIE LENERU has written a play, "La Triomphatrice," which will be read to the Committee of the Francaise shortly by the new administrator, Mr. Albert Carré, himself. If, as seems probable, the play is accepted, it will be the first work by a woman performed by the Comedie Francaise since the days of George Sand and Mme. de Girardin. Mlle. Leneru has had a remarkable history. She was "discovered" by Mr. Antoine at about the same time that Mr. Octave Mirbeau "discovered" Marguerite Andoux, the authoress of "Marie Claire."

There is nothing in common between the two writers except the fact that the circumstances of both lives seem scarcely such as would make literary artists of them. Mme. Andoux was a very humble workwoman when she wrote her first book. Mlle. Leneru lives in different surroundings, but she is hampered by physical infirmities which almost cut her off from human intercourse. Yet "Les Affranchis," produced by Mr. Antoine at the Odéon one Saturday afternoon a few years ago, showed extraordinary insight into human nature and a wonderful grasp of dramatic art. We went rather dependently to these Saturday afternoon performances devoted to new authors. So many new authors have been "revealed" who were scarcely worth revealing. But the audience was astounded, after the first few scenes, to find that the new dramatist this time had written a play which, for intensity of feeling and for a certain sense of mystery, might be compared with Ibsen's modern works.

Nothing is naturally yet known of "La Triomphatrice," except that it has aroused the enthusiasm of Mme. Bartet, who will play the principal part, and of Mr. Carré, who will read the play to the committee himself, as the authoress is unable to do so. "Les Affranchis" was a very powerful study of intellectual friendship, growing into passion, between a philosopher who has "freed" his mind from ordinary dogmas and his devoted disciple of eighteen, who thinks that she has freed herself. But, although he dares, she at the last moment dare not. The mother superior of the convent in which she was brought up wins her back to renunciation, and the philosopher wonders at the end whether their self-sacrifice may not be the worst selfishness. The "Affranchis" were not free after all.

Mr. Bertillon is about to disturb all the illegitimate trade in spurious pictures and works of art. Thumb prints will hereafter be the rule, instead of signatures, more or less cryptic, with truth or perjury. Mr. Bertillon declares that if artists will only sign their pictures with the impress of their thumb or forefinger the authenticity of their works will be insured forever. Had the great artists of the past done this there would now be no controversy over their works. It would be impossible to mistake a thumb print of Michelangelo or Raphael, just as it is impossible to imagine the thumb print of Rodin, Bonnat or Harpignies successfully copied by the clever workshoppers of Montmartre. These three artists, when interviewed on the subject, were enthusiastically in favor of the immediate adoption of thumb prints for their signature by all artists.

There has been a sworn model of each artist's thumb print deposited in the archives of the Ecole des Beaux Arts, and then be supplied to dealers and connoisseurs of museums.

This is well enough for painters, but how about sculptors and etchers? A sculptor, who well knows the print of his thumb on molten bronze before it cools, nor can an etcher impress it on a copperplate. It is suggested that they should use a specially prepared and indelible gold powder with which they could leave the imprint of their thumb on the base of a statue or on a metal plate. At any rate, something will have to be found to prevent the indefatigable production of masterpieces by masters when they are dead.

Criticise Music Between Acts

Mr. Granville Barker Abolishes Orchestra and Mr. Charles Frohman Trying the Experiment.

(Special Dispatch.)

LONDON, Feb. 21. THE question is being raised again whether music is wanted between the acts at the theatres. Mr. Granville Barker, believing in close attention to the drama, has abolished the orchestra in the theatres under his direction, and Mr. Charles Frohman is now "presenting" a Barrie play, as he has done others, at the Duke of York's without the usual entr'acte music.

To some playgoers, however, this new practice that is gradually growing up in London seems a little cheerless, and today they are indorsing the view that Mr. Norman O'Neill, the conductor of the Haymarket Theatre orchestra, expressed in his address to the conference of musicians.

"Personally," he said, "I am old-fashioned enough to feel that to have no music between the acts is not a good thing. England is one of the few countries where it was always deemed necessary, and to me there is something cheerless about these empty entr'actes."

"It all depends upon the music, of course," Mr. Carl Henschel, president of the O. P. and Players' clubs, said in reply to a question. "As a matter of fact, often those who appreciate music do the most talking. Music acts, in fact, as an incentive to conversation. If you are in a place where everything is still no one speaks, but when the band starts every one begins talking."

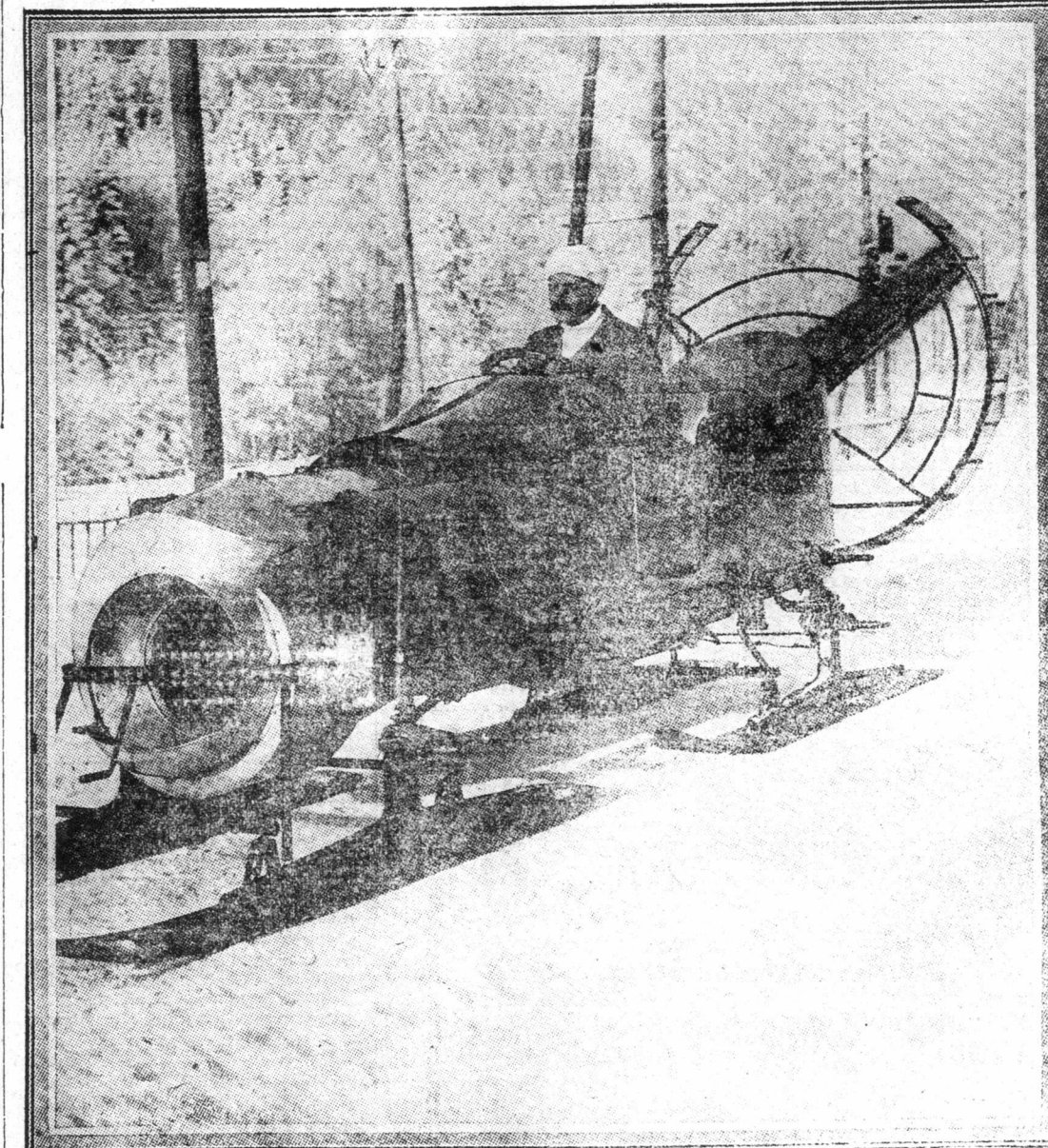
"Man is a selfish animal. He often goes out between the acts, not caring very much what happens, and ladies are left to sit in the theatre with nothing to do. If, however, there is a good orchestra they have something interesting to listen to. The orchestra need not necessarily be large so long as there is sufficient music to keep one interested. Nor do I think that music between the acts interferes with a play, even if it is serious, while without it there is rather a deadly feeling in the house."

Others criticise Mr. Norman O'Neill's views as old-fashioned, but Mr. O'Neill believes in selecting for the entr'actes music that is in harmony with the play. Some, however, take the opposite view and hold that it should be in direct contrast to the play. To him, however, the curtain rising on an act of "The Wild Duck" to the last bars of the latest comic song would have something a little absurd about it.

New Laid.

Pearson's Weekly—Doubtful Customer—Really, now, are these eggs fresh? Smart Assistant—Madam, if you will kindly step on the telephone and call up our farm you can hear the hens that laid those eggs still cackling.

Count De Lesseps in His Wonderful Motor Sleigh



In view of the fact that Lieutenant Shackleton is to test the practical possibilities of motor traction in his forthcoming expedition to the Antarctic, the above view of an aeropropelled motor sleigh shows what can be done on snow by existing machines. This form of aero-sledding, far from being a dream of the imagination, has already reached a remarkable degree of perfection and has several devotees, notably Count de Lesseps, son of the famous Frenchman of Suez Canal fame, who is here seen in his wonderful car in the beautiful valley of Chamoni, in Switzerland. Count de Lesseps has constructed an air propelled machine which is capable of attaining a speed of from fifteen to sixty miles an hour over the snow, according to the condition of the frozen roads. The shoe shaped chassis is attached to broad, flat metal runners, and vibration is reduced to a minimum by the addition of strong springs, seen at the side of the body. It will be noticed that the propeller behind the pilot is well guarded by a metal screen as a protection against any one approaching it closely. When snow falls wheels are placed on the projecting pins, which lift the air from the ground, and the car will then attain a speed of nearly a hundred miles an hour.