

tion. Then, too, such a provision would doubtless act as a more effective protection of the public against reckless and negligent aviators, and against the operation of airships over places where the danger of injury to persons and property was great, than would a large mass of complicated and cumbersome as well as probably unenforceable regulative and restrictive measures.

In addition to the liability for actual damages, it has been suggested that a fixed, reasonable amount be allowed to the owner of property upon which an involuntary landing is made without any actual damage. Whether such a provision will become desirable at any time is questionable; for the present it might well be omitted.

3. Protection of aviators. One class of proposals for laws designed particularly for the protection of those using airships, includes rules of the road, distances to be maintained in passing, signals, etc. Such matters must necessarily be worked out by the airmen themselves from experience, and may safely and more properly be left for aeronautical societies to formulate.

Other proposals seek to limit the speed and the maximum and minimum height of flight. Of these the only one which seems practical or at all desirable is the regulation of a minimum height for flight over buildings or people, and it is doubtful if even this is necessary or feasible in view of the difficulty of enforcement and the fact that the aviator himself has more at stake than any other person in maintaining a safe altitude.

It has also been proposed to prohibit racing and exhibition meets. While most of the fatalities so far in aviation have occurred at these exhibitions, no reason is apparent why they should be placed under the ban any more than the equally fatal automobile or motorcycle races. The exhibition and racing meets afford opportunities for the public to become familiar with the sight and movement of aeroplanes, and furnishes a means of financial return for those who, in the air or workshop, are seeking to develop this new means of transportation, and to whose efforts will be due the determination of the possibilities of this new invention as a servant of mankind.