

## AERIAL MAIL.

### MELBOURNE TO SYDNEY.

#### AMERICAN'S PROJECT.

Piloting an Australian-built Bleriot type monoplane, Mr. A. B. ("Wizard") Stone, the American airman, will on Saturday, May 23, start from Melbourne in an attempt to fly to Sydney in easy stages.

Mr. Stone will carry with him the first aerial mail between the capitals, the Postmaster-General yesterday having granted the necessary permission.

The flight has been promoted by Mr. Arthur Rickard.

Mr. Stone hopes to complete the journey of 563 miles in seven days, alighting, in all probability, on a city racecourse on Saturday afternoon, May 30. Fourteen fuel depots will be established en route, and the principal towns, such as Seymour, Wangaratta, Albury, and Goulburn, visited. The longest sustained flight, it is expected, will not exceed 100 miles.

#### LOCALLY-BUILT MONOPLANE.

With the exception of the 50-h.p. 7-cylinder Gnome engine and two-bladed propeller which have been imported from France, the machine to be flown by Mr. Stone was entirely constructed in Australia.

The wings were made in Brisbane by a coach-building firm, from materials supplied by a Sydney house, while Mr. Stone constructed the greater portion of the fuselage himself in Sydney. Unfortunately the rudder and tail planes were damaged in transit to the southern capitals, and the machine was not finally completed until yesterday. Mr. Stone expects to make his first trial flight over Melbourne to-day.

Arrangements have been made to carry 140lb of mail matter, which weight includes the bags. The special postcards bear the following inscription:—"This card is purchased on the distinct understanding that the Postmaster-General accepts no responsibility in the event of non-delivery through accident or any other cause."

The flight will be followed by Mr. Arthur Kidman's Charron car, which will contain Mr. P. V. Ryan, Mr. Stone's manager, and a staff of mechanics, with spare parts.

#### AVIATOR STONE.

Aviator Stone, who is well-known in Sydney on account of his aeroplane race with the Australian aviator, Mr. W. E. Hart, two years ago, claims to be the third man to fly a heavier than air machine. His international pilot's certificate is number 15. He has been engaged in many contests in Europe and America, and on one occasion flew from Paris to Pau.

When flying his monoplane recently in Brisbane he had a bad fall, receiving injuries to his shoulder, from which he has only just recovered. Prior to his coming to Australia, Mr. Stone, when flying in the dark, was capsized by a wind storm, and fell with his monoplane into Lake Michigan: the

was capsized by a wind storm, and fell with his monoplane into Lake Michigan; the machine, he states, looping the loop several times in its meteoric descent.