

AERIAL POSTMAN.

GUILLAUX FLIES TO SYDNEY.

DETAINED BY RAIN.

Melbourne, 16th July.

Having received Australia's first aerial mail from Mr. W. B. Crosbie, acting Deputy Postmaster-General, M. Maurice Guillaux left the Agricultural Society's show grounds punctually at 9 a.m. to-day, for Sydney in his aeroplane. The mail comprised between 2000 and 2500 cards for which he paid 2/ each, and in addition a few letters including those from Sir Arthur Stanley, the Governor, to Sir Gerald Strickland, Governor of New South Wales, and from Alderman D. V. Hennessy, the Lord Mayor, to Alderman Richards, the Lord Mayor of Sydney. Though similar mails have been inaugurated in other parts of the world, the distance between Melbourne and Sydney (580 miles) is a record in this direction.

Seymour, 16th July.

Conditions here were excellent for M. Guillaux's flight, but unfortunately the aviator was confused, after crossing the mountains, by a heavy bank of clouds and a fog. There was also a contrary wind blowing, and this took him out of his way. For about 10 minutes he was lost, but picking up his course he made an excellent flight, and landed in Seymour 42 minutes after leaving Melbourne. In 30 minutes the machine was under way again in a cloudless sky.

Benalla, 16th July

About 2000 people congregated in the main street to see M. Guillaux pass over Benalla. A fine view was obtained from the bridge over the river, from which place he was first sighted at 11.19. At 11.23 the machine was out of sight again.

Wangaratta, 16th July.

M. Guillaux descended at Wangaratta at 11.40, after a successful flight. A large crowd assembled near the racecourse to greet the aviator, who was received with cheers. Having taken in a supply of petrol and oil, he ascended, after 35 minutes' stay on his way to Albury.

Albury, 16th July.

M. Guillaux reached Albury at 1.59 p.m. after flying over 40 miles from Wangaratta in 40 minutes. He stayed at

p.m. after flying over 40 miles from Waggaratta in 40 minutes. He stayed at Albury 45 minutes, and expects to sleep at Goulburn to-night.

Later.

M. Guillaux was met by the Mayor, Alderman, Waugh, and Alderman Frere. The aviator passed over Albury at a height of 4000ft. As he approached the race-course he made a sudden dive, circled round the course, and made a perfect landing in front of the grandstand, where a number of people had assembled. M. Guillaux at once examined the engines, replenished the petrol tank and oiled the machinery. He then had lunch with Alderman Frere, a fellow countryman. In the course of a conversation, M. Guillaux said so far the trip had been good, and he was much interested. Between Melbourne and Seymour the fog was very dense, and he had to rely on his compass. Crossing the mountains it was very cold, but from Seymour on he had glorious sunshine. His actual flying time from Melbourne to Albury was 2 hours 25 minutes.

M. Guillaux left Albury at 1.25 for Wagga, where he intended to make a short stop; then fly to Harden, where he was billed to give an exhibition in the afternoon, and thence to Goulburn, where he will stay for the night.

Wagga, 16th July.

M. Guillaux arrived at 2.50 p.m., the journey from Albury occupying 1 hour 5 minutes. He resumed his journey at 3.30 amidst cheers from a large crowd.

Sydney, 17th July.

M. Guillaux, the French aviator, who is still at Harden, has been advised not to resume his aerial mail flight to Sydney till the weather clears, as it is raining heavily at Goulburn.

Goulburn, 17th July.

M. Guillaux left Harden this morning with the intention of flying to Goulburn, but at Benalong he decided to turn back, and he returned to Harden. He encountered bad weather after leaving Harden, and became ill. His manager has telegraphed to him, advising him not to continue the flight until the heavy rain has ceased. To-night's reports show that heavy rain has set in between here and Sydney.
