

THE ARGUS, 1911 NEW AIRCRAFT

TESTS OF THE SEAGULL

Special Staff Flight

The first flight of the new Seagull aeroplane was made yesterday at Mount Cooke yesterday afternoon. The machine was successfully tested at Mount Cooke yesterday afternoon. The machine was fitted with a 40 horse power engine, and it has a normal cruising speed of between 60 and 70 knots an hour. It has accommodated a pilot and a wireless operator, and when fully loaded has a weight of about 5,000 lbs. The wing span is 31 ft. and the machine is 31 ft. in length.

The Seagull aeroplane has several interesting features of design. The cockpit is situated by the pilot is situated in front of the machine, ahead of and above the propeller and engine. The pilot is thus out of the main stream of the propeller draught, and his position is very comfortable in addition to affording him an exceptionally clear view of the airway and wireless operator are seated which are in the body of the aeroplane. The Seagull aeroplane is fitted with a trailing wireless aerial, which is lowered when the machine is in the air and pulled up when landing. To the bottom of the main air rudder is attached another smaller rudder, which controls the movement of the machine in the water and acts as a tail fin when it is in the water.

The test yesterday consisted of rising from the aerodrome surface and making a flight of about 30 minutes duration. A number of arrangements had been made for further flights to be held in the afternoon in the presence of the Minister for Defence, Mr. Neville Brown, and the members of the Air Force. Unfortunately, however, owing to the rain which began about midday, the test of the Seagull as a flying boat could be held shortly.

A9 Seagull report of test flight June 1926

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