DESERET EVENING NEWS FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 18 1908



Blade of Propeller Snapped, Causing Aeroplane to Turn Turtle and Come Down.

LIEUT. SELFRIDGE KILLED.

Orville Wright Had Leg and Several Ribs Fractured-Expected to Recover-Continue Experiments.

Washington, Sept. 17 .- After having drawn the attention of the world to his aeroplane flights at Fort Meyer, and having established new world's records for heavier-than-air flying machines, Orville Wright today met with a tragical mishap while making a twoman flight. The aeroplanist was accompanied by Lieut. Thomas E. Selfridge of the signal corps of the army. Lieut, Selfridge was fatally injured and died at \$:10 o'clock tonight, Mr. Wright was seriously injured, but is expected to recover.

CAUSE OF ACCIDENT

CAUSE OF ACCIDENT. While the machine was excircing the drill grounds a propeller blade snapped off and, hitting some other part of the intricate mechanism, caused it to over-turn in the air and fail to the ground, enveloping the two occupants in the de-bris. Soldlers and spectators ran across the field to where the aeroplane had fallen and assisted in lifting Mr. Wright and Lieut. Selfridge from un-der the tangled mass of machinery, rods, wires and shreds of muslin. Mr. Wright was conscious and said: "Oh, hurry and lift the motor."

Wright was conscious and said: "Oh, hurry and lift the motor." Libetz. Selfridge vas unconscious. His head was covered with blood and he was choking when the soldiers ex-tricated him from under the machine. Dr. Watters, a New York physician, was one of the first to reach the spot and rendered first aid to the injured men. When their wounds had been bandaged, Mr. Wright and Lieut, Sel-fridge were taken to the Fort Mycr hospital at the other end of the field. Mr. Wright had lapsed into a state of semi-consciousness by the time he

that he was all right.

Two thousand persons were at the aeronautical testing grounds at Fort Myer this afternoon. Mr. Wright announced several days ago that he would take Lieut. Selfridge, who is secretary of the Aerial Experi-ment association, and an aeroplanist himself, in his next flight. The young officer was delighted to have an oppor-tunity to fly in the aeroplane. He was to leave Saturday for St. Joseph, Mo, where he was to assist. Lieut. Foulers in operating the Baldwin air-ship at the coming army maneuvers. MOTOR STARTED MOTOR STARTED.

After Mr. Wright told him to get in the machine, Lieut. Selfridge took off his coat and hat and took his place in his coat and hat and took his place in the extra seat, next to that occupied by Mr. Wright. The latter started the motor by means of a storage bat-tery, his assistants, Taylor and Fur-nass, turning the propellers to get them going. At 5:14 o'clock the aeroplane was released and it was noticed that it did not rise as quickly from the ground

was released and it was noticed that it did not rise as quickly from the ground as on previous two-man flights. Lieut.s Selfridge weighed about 175 pounds, making the weight greater than the machine had ever carried before. After gliding over the ground on its runners for 30 feeet the machine rose gradually and had gained a height of 40 feet when it passed over the start-ing apparatus for the first time. There was a six-mile wind. The aeroplanist, however, apparently had control of the aerial flyer, which rose to a height of aerial fiver, which rose to a height of 75 feet as it completed the second round of the flight. This height was main-tained on the third round.

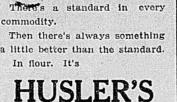
While the machine was turning at the southern end of the field, several thousand feet from the spectators, some one shouted: "What is that? Something fell."

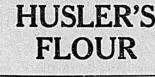
AEROPLANE TURNS OVER.

Immediately all eyes were on the aeroplane, and it was seen to turn over on its left side and, pausing a moment, made a complete turn and then came swooping to the earth in a cloud of dust. No effort on the part of the aviator could possibly have averted the accident. Planes and rudders were absolutely incapable of righting the machine when it had turned in that manner. Spectators, soldiers and offimanner. Spectators, soldiers and offi-cers ran across the field. It was fully a minute before any one reached the tangled mass.

Mounted soldiers formed a cordon around the wreckage, while others frenziedly endeavored to lift the heavy mass of machinery and wood that pin-ioned Wright and Selfridge to the ground.

A piece of the wooden framework was broken off as a half-dozen men endeavored to free the injured men. As soon as they could be extricated they were taken to one side and phy-





periment station, notified Lieut. Sel-fridge's family in San Francisco. Dr. Howard H. Bailey, who attended Lieut. Selfridge, said: "His death was due to a compound fracture at the base of the skull. He never regained consciousness from the moment he struck the ground, despite the heroic romedies which were administered. There was absolutely no response to the treatment given him. He passed away peacefully.

treatment given him. He passed away peacefully. "Maj. Squier advised the family of the lieutenant's death, and some word is expected hourly as to whether they will come here or have the body sent to the Pacific coast for interment. We have to ablide by the army regulations, which prescribe that the war depart-ment shall be first advised. The body will not be removed from the hospital until word is received from the adju-tant-general."

CHANGED PROPELLERS.

Mr. Wright yesterday replaced the propellers which he has been using with another pair, the blades of which are six inches longer. They were used for the first time in today's disastrous Mr. Wright's flights at Fort Myer be-lieve the change of propellers caused the accident. An examination of the broken blade showed that it had snapped off at a point one-fourth of the distance from the hub. A deep inden-tation of the broken piece indicated that it had struck some other part of

that it had struck some other part of the aeroplane. Octave Chanute, the father of aero-nauties in America, who came to Wash-ington several days ago for the pur-pose of seeing Orville Wright's flights, said that if the Wright's had used but one propeller instead of two the result would have been at least as serious. Would have been at least as serious. Only this morning Wright had been asked the result if one of his propellers broke while the machine was in flight. "The other propeller would tend to turn the machine around," he said,

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with the transmission

with the transmission. Among the eye-witnesses was Charles R. Flint of New York, International representative of the Wright brothers. Mr. Flint was accompanied to Fort Myer by Admiral and Mrs. Brownson. Mr. Flint said tonight that the Fort Myer flights will be resumed as soon as Mr. Wright has recovered and the ma-chine has been reprodued.

not think there was anything wrong

Mr. Wright has recovered and the ma-chine has been repaired. Several days ago an admirer of the Wright brothers made application to a Washington insurance agent for a life policy in favor of Orville Wright. The agent applied in the régular way to the home office. Today the agent re-ceived a letter from the officials of the company, saying: "We cannot issue a policy in favor of Mr. Wright or any one else in his line of work. We con-sider the hazard too great at this time, but it is possible that in the future but it is possible that in the future aerial navigation will reach a develop-ment which may change this view." Representatives of accident insurance companies would not even consider a policy in his favor.

PRINCIPLE CORRECT.

PRINCIPLE CORRECT. Officers of the signal corps and other enthusiasts at Fort Myer were inclined to express the belief that to-day's accident was not due to a faulty principle, but to a defect in the propeller, which was made of spruce. One of the members of the signal corps board who had been conducting the Fort Myer tests said: "The resumption of the aeroplane trials will depend on the length of time it will take Mr. Wright to re-cover from his injuries. This acci-dent will, of course, seriously hamper the possibility of securing appropria-tions from Congress for the aeronaut-ical work of the signal corps. The Wright brothers, however, have even more advanced ideas in regard to the air flights, and if they continue the work, it is very probable that the ef-fect of this one accident will be over-come." come.

The belief was expressed by a ser-geant of the signal corps that the aeroplane had been tampered with previous to its flight, but this is improbable, because the machine had been closely guarded while at the

WILL CONTINUE EXPERIMENTS Dayton, O., Sept. 17.—When ask-ed if the accident would deter either Orville or his brother, now in France, from further tests, Lorin Wright re-

plied: "Decidedly not. My brothers will pursue these tests until the machines are as near perfect as it is possible to make them, if they are not killed in the meantime; and we have never felt much apprehension, knowing that both boys are cautious in the ex-treme."

is at Greens Fork. Ind., and will no be advised of the accident until morn

ine await with much anxiety the out-come of their brother's injuries.

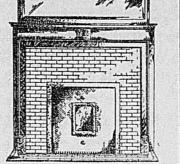
from man's persistent effort to conquer the air.

Lilenthal, a German scientist, and M. Pilcher, another student of aeron-autics, probably were the first martyrs to the cause of the heavier-than-air type of air craft. The former was killed in the sumer of 15%, while exper-imenting with his "gliding machine," which is said to have furnshed the first model for the Wright brothers. The latter met his death about the same way in a test of his own aero-plane.

loon by lightning near Stuttgart, Ger-many, on Aug. 5, last, was one of the severest blows yet struck at aerial navigation.



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The Deseret News takes pleasure in announcing that it has secured the sole rights to the HISTORY OF UTAH, by Orson F. Whitney, originally published by the George Q. Cannon & Sons Co.

This work, which was begun in 1890, and printed in three large volumes (the fourth volume issued being biographical, and not a part of the direct history of Utah), is one of the largest and most exhaustive histories ever compiled of any western state. The three volumes bring the history of the state from the foundation down to the year 1890, at the time of the issuance of the manifesto, and includes the history of the Church from its organization in New York. The first ten chapters are devoted to this subject.

In the three volumes are included 235 full page steel plates, mostly portraits of leading figures in the history of the State, originally obtained at a cost of many thousand dollars. The volumes each contain approximately 800 pages, a total of 2,351 pages in the three. The binding is quarto size, full morocco with gilt edges, no other style of binding being issued.

The three volumes were originally sold at \$30.00, and several thousand sets were placed throughout the state at that figure. The "News" having obtained the unsold copies of the edition, will place them on the market at the coming October Conference and sell to the first comers at half the original price, or \$15.00 for the three volumes. No single volumes will be sold. Without doubt many libraries throughout the country will avail themselves of this rare opportunity, and Utah people who desire to add this work to their libraries are urged to call at the Deseret News book store and inspect the work during Conference

The low price at which this rare work is offered will undoubtedly. exhaust the edition in a short time. The work will then be OUT OF PRINT, so that every book-lover should avail himself of this last chance.

The original subscribers, who already have the first three volumes of the History of Utah are entitled to the fourth volume (containing individual biographies) free, by addressing George Q. Cannon & Sons Association.

The "News" has no interest in the fourth volume, the work being complete as above stated, in the three volumes, now offered at \$15.00.



