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PILOTLESS PLANE

A pilotless airplane, equipped with an automatic control device said to be more accurate and dependable than any human pilot, has been developed to a point where it has made successful flights of more than ninety miles, the Army Air Service announces.

In actual work with these automatic pilots, hundreds of automatic take-offs and a number of automatic flights of ninety miles and more have been made. This "pilot" is capable of being mounted in any type airplane, and in bumpy weather will hold a plane much steadier than a human pilot and will carry it on an absolutely true course, regardless of fog or adverse weather conditions.

Of the automatic pilots being experimented with by the Army Air Service, that which has proved most successful to date can be described as using a gyroscope for its brains and bellows or pneumatics, similar to those used in player pianos, for its muscles.

It was said the invention would have two new methods of bombing; one official asserting it would be entirely practical to load a plane with explosives that would discharge on contact with any target on land or water with great destructive effect. Other military usages, it was predicted, would be discovered as the experiments continued.

—Aviation Vol. XIV, No. 1.

The number of motor cars and trucks registered in the United States in December, 1922, was 12,357,000, a gain of about 1,850,000 over the same month in 1921. New York headed the list with 1,000,000 cars and trucks. Every state showed an increase of from 3 to 38 per cent over the preceding year.