

St. Croix Avis.

77TH YEAR.

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DIRIGIBLE WILL MAKE POLAR FLIGHTS.

The huge dirigible ZR 1 is rapidly nearing completion at the naval air station at Lakehurst, N. J., and will probably be in commission this summer. After a thorough test the airship will attempt a flight around the world and, later, trips to both the north and south poles. The new dirigible takes the place of the ill-fated ZR-2 which met disaster in England in 1921. The ZR-1 is a rigid craft 680 feet long—more than two-thirds the length of the steamship Leviathan—and 78 feet in diameter. It is built of "duralumin" trusses and girders.

There will be 20 separate gas bags, with a total capacity of nearly 2,200,000 cubic feet, covered by a single envelope. Unlike the ZR-2 which used dangerous hydrogen gas for buoyancy, the new craft will be filled with helium, a non-inflammable gas found only in large quantities in the United States. In this respect the ZR 1 will be the first giant airship of this kind. Six separate cars will be suspended from her keel, each with a 300 horse-power engine.

The fundamental design is based on the German Zeppelin L 49. There is now being rushed to completion in Germany another big rigid airship, the ZR 3 which will be turned over to this country according to agreement. The ZR 1 and the ZR 3 represent the most approved methods in aeronautical design and are expected to be the forerunners of a large fleet of such airships for commercial use. If necessary, these ships can be converted for war purposes. They are able to make long distance

flights and carry cargoes. They have advantage of being able to hover over a given spot, making for great accuracy in dropping bombs and directing in fire.

The development of rigid airships in this country by joint agreement between the army and navy is in the hands of the naval bureau of aeronautics. The ZR-1 is to cost about \$2,500,000. It will carry a crew of 10 officers and 20 enlisted men. She has a cruising radius of 5,000 miles. The hangar where this monster of the air is being constructed is the largest building in the world.—*The Pathfinder.*

LIST OF UNCLAIMED MAIL FOR THE WEEK ENDED JULY 28, 1923

Mr. Charles Fredericks; No. 12 Water Gut.

Mr. Benjamin Ryan, May William.

Post Office, Christiansted, Virgin Islands, July 30, 1923.

B. R. LARSEN, Postmaster

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