WAR AWAKENS U. S. NAVY TO IMPORTANCE OF AIRCRAFT

Extensive Plans Already in Progress for Development of Aviation Branch of the Service

The war in Europe has proved the value of armed forces in every phase of their work. It is clear now that in connection with land forces especially, the air force may be expected to play a much larger part in the future. The importance of aerial reconnaissance has been proved beyond question.

In this war, America has had no air force. Our army has been entirely dependent upon the British for all aviation appliances except for certain reconnaissance balloons on which the American invasion of Haiti was based.

The British navy has been using a number of small and inefficient seaplanes. One of these was sent to France and has been used successfully to reconnoiter in the north of France, and has been of great assistance in the campaign. The British have also launched a number of dirigible balloons, but they have not made much use of them.

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The French have used dirigibles and seaplanes in large numbers. The French navy has been using dirigibles for reconnaissance, and has been using seaplanes for the same purpose. The French have also used dirigibles for the transport of ammunition and supplies, and for the transport of wounded men.

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