Why the Interest In England's R.101?

If it Suceeds it May Be the Real Beginning of the Air-ship Era—If it fails, the End, at Any Rate, for a Generation

BRITISH PRESS VIEWS

"We are opening not only a new chapter but the first chapter of a new book; an exciting chapter, since it may be the first of many but may also, perhaps, be the last."

—Manchester Guardian.

There have been many airships and the Graf Zeppelin is holder of a fine record. But experts in the world of the air realize that R-101, our new airship, is a striking factor in the future of that class of aircraft, and that is why its flying exploits are being carefully studied.

"The first and greatest virtue of the R-101," says the Times, "is that, owing to the employment of furnace oil instead of petrol as the source of her motive power (at one-fifth of the cost) she will be decidedly safer than all previous airships. The risk of fire is reduced to a minimum, and smoking, which had to be banned in the case of the Graf Zeppelin, will be allowed in a special compartment.

"Another great and novel advantage is that the elimination of petrol will enable her, unlike airships dependent on this form of fuel, to face the temperature of the tropics and the effect of its extremes on the lift of the ship. So far as risks of mishaps from outside are concerned she is designed to withstand a sudden vertical gust of 15 miles an hour, or three times the wind velocity provided against in the case of the Graf Zeppelin.

"In comfort, and in the extent of her accommodation, as well as in speed, she has a marked superiority over previous ones."

Much Abused "Safety-First"

"... not only probable, ... practicable ... develop ... before the ... Empire ... fled as a ... enterprise. ... prove when ... 101 has ... good ... air ... be ... be ... be