

WILL DRIVE CURTISS BIPLANE IN BRIDGEPORT

Lincoln Beachey, well known as a dirigible balloon driver, but better known recently as a driver of the Curtiss type of aeroplanes, who will fly in this city May 11, 12 and 13th, is regarded as one of the best aviators in the country, having made flights in all sections of the United States. His first attempt - which was a successful one - was made in a Curtiss biplane at Dominigues field, in Los Angeles. Mr. Beachey, who is a thorough airman, mastered the Curtiss machine in a very short space of time, and has rapidly taken his place in the foremost ranks of aviation. His ability as an aviator has been unquestioned, having made successful flights whenever attempted regardless of adverse circumstances and unfavorable conditions of the



weather. It might be said that his most successful flights have been made under very unfavorable weather conditions.

In the early stages of aviation when dirigible balloons were very popular and heavier than air machines almost unheard of, Beachey traveled all over the country giving spectacular exhibitions with his dirigible balloons and gained a strong reputation for himself as a dirigible operator. His most daring

and spectacular flight was made in 1908 at Washington, D. C. when he made a flight down Pennsylvania avenue and circled about the great dome of the national capitol several times. This daring feat performed with such ease and grace, won for him the admiration of the world of aviation.

This wonderful flight, at that time, created such a sensation that both branches of Congress took a brief recess in order that the members of Congress might witness this spectacular scene. It was the first object lesson that the national law-makers had had of the possibilities of aircraft in time of war, and it is needless to say that it impressed them mightily. Other daring and spectacular flight were given by Beachey and his dirigible in various sections of the country.

Perhaps no other aviator in the world is better qualified mentally to discharge the duties of an aviator than Beachey, who, on account of his faculties and great presence of mind never loses control of himself, no matter what the provocation might be. He is cool headed and knows no danger. He is a mechanic of wonderful ability and very enthusiastic over aviation. Within the near future he desires that he will attempt a long cross-country flight - a task which, a number of aviators declare - he is well suited for.

During the past winter Mr. Beachey has been in charge of the Curtiss College of Aviation, which is located in Pinehurst, North Carolina, where he has carried on extensive experiments in developing the Curtiss machine into a more perfect machine. Of course, the Curtiss machine is regarded as being among the best machines on the market - this is undisputed by all who have knowledge of aeroplanes, but new devices and equipments are constantly being added to the already efficient machine and Beachey has made improvements a study. During his winter stay at Pinehurst, he has had complete charge of the aviation college and has taught a number of students the art of flying heavier-than-air machines. His work as an aviator instructor has been recognized throughout the country and a number of students from Europe have come to this country for the express purpose of securing instructions at the Curtiss college at Pinehurst.