

German Plans Flight Up to Edge of Ether In Rocket Speed Plane With Two Motors

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BERLIN, May 2.—The first man to be shot to the utmost limits of the earth's atmosphere in a rocket airplane will be Anton Raab, chief pilot of the Raab-Katzenstein Works at Cassel. A contract with the daring aviator, who hopes to become the pioneer of travel into space, was signed yesterday by the Opel Automobile Works, which is building the plane jointly with the Cassel firm. The plane, which is now under construction, is patterned after the Raab-Katzenstein sport plane, Prasmuecke, weighing only about 550 American pounds.

It is estimated that, in addition to the rocket, the motor developed by the Opel engineer, Sander, according to the ideas of the Tyrolean inventor, Valler, will increase the weight but slightly, probably not more than 200 pounds.

To make Raab's trip absolutely safe, the plane will be equipped with two motors, one at each end of the

machine. The front motor will be used only for descent to break the anticipated great speed and make possible a smooth landing by reverse action. To guard against possible accidents, the pilot will also carry a parachute. Fritz von Opel, who is financing the undertaking, and Sander, the constructor, are convinced that the new plane will develop a speed undreamed of hitherto and completely revolutionize aerial navigation.

The object of the first test is to ascertain the limit of speed which a human being can stand and to determine how high an aviator carrying oxygen may go without endangering his life and health. It is expected that significant scientific results will be obtained, but a journey into space beyond the atmosphere is still far in the future.

The new Opel rocket automobile, which is expected to break all speed records, is nearly completed. The machine will make an exhibition run on the Avus Speedway here on May 19, piloted by young von Opel.