

SANTOS-DUMONT HERE TO FLY FOR AIRSHIP PRIZE

Thinks His No. 7 Will Win \$100,000
at St. Louis.

SHE'S STEEL AND ALUMINIUM

Is 56 Yards Long, Has Nominal Horse
Power of 40, and Has Been Tried
Three Times—Five Competitors.

M. Santos-Dumont of airship fame arrived here from Paris last night on his way to St. Louis to take part in the airship contest, which will be held there early next month for a purse of \$100,000. He was a passenger on the steamship *La Savole* of the French Line, in the hold of which was packed his airship No. 7, in long wooden boxes. He will go on to St. Louis to-day.

So far there are only five ships entered in the contest, their owners being, besides Santos-Dumont, Edward Hutchinson of Chicago, Charles Sharn of New York, S. M. Williams of San Francisco, and Gustave Davis and Emory Curls of Gillespie, N. Y.

M. Santos-Dumont said last night that he had great confidence in his airship, and that he hoped to make a good showing with her at the Fair.

"I may be beaten," he said, "but I doubt if there is a faster ship than mine as she is now rigged. She was built three years ago, but her engines are new. She is of steel and aluminium, which metals bear the same relation to each other as wood to cork. The balloon is fifty-six yards long, and is elongated in shape. She has two propellers and a nominal horse power of forty, while her effective horse power is fifty-five. She is of Charon-Giraudod-Voight make.

"I have never raced this airship, and have had but three trials with her in Paris. They were for short distances, but everything worked admirably. This machine is much stronger and much more powerful than the No. 6, in which I circled the Eiffel Tower, and, though I have never timed her, I feel sure that she will fulfill the requirements."

In the contest it is required that each airship shall maintain an average of twenty miles an hour. Each machine will make three flights, one machine at a time, over a course five miles out and five miles back, the one doing the distance in the shortest time to be the winner.

M. Santos-Dumont said last night that it might be difficult for the contestants to keep up the average of twenty miles an hour, as that was rather high speed for the present-day airships. He said that last night was an ideal night for a flight, and that under such conditions as prevailed then he could cover the requirements.

"The last flight I took," he continued, "was last season, when with my No. 9 I went from Paris to Longchamps. At St. Louis I shall keep within 100 yards of the ground because best results can be obtained at that height.

"It will take a week to get my machine in trim, and then I shall start at once to get in shape for the contest."

When Santos-Dumont last sailed from here it was a day later than Miss Spreckels, the daughter of Claus Spreckels, left here with her mother for Paris. It was reported then that he was following them to Paris, and that Mr. Spreckels objected to the attentions shown by the aeronaut to his daughter.

Santos-Dumont laughed at the report last night, and said it was absurd. He said he hadn't seen Miss Spreckels since he was last here.

31 Cars Carry Submarine Cable.

The second consignment of deep sea cable now being laid by the Government between Valdez and Nome has just been shipped in a special train of thirty-one cars over the Lackawanna Railroad. This shipment consists of two hundred tons, and is part of an order for thirteen hundred miles of submarine cable.