

WAR DIRIGIBLE MUST YIELD TO AEROPLANE

**French Minister, Commenting on
Wreck of Republique, Says
Type Is Too Vulnerable.**

WILL GET ARMY AEROPLANES

**Gloom Cast Over French by Death of
Republique's Crew Fails to Dampen
Ardor of Nation for Aviation.**

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

PARIS, Sept. 26.—Gen. Brun, the Minister of War, commenting on the disaster yesterday to the French army dirigible balloon Republique, in which four officers lost their lives, said in an interview that he regarded the dirigible balloon only as an intermediary type which for military as well as other purposes must yield in the near future to the aeroplane, and that he considered the latter, even in its present state of incomplete development, superior to any form of balloon, unexcepting that of Zeppelin.

"The dirigible can never be so far perfected," added Gen. Brun, "as to be a military engine of the first order. I am devoting the closest attention to the acquirement of suitable aeroplanes for the army, and we will begin soon to train our soldiers in their use. I expect in the next six months to show important results in that direction."

Gen. Brun went on to say he did not minimize the services the dirigibles are capable of rendering in war.

Dirigible Too Vulnerable.

"As scouts, however," he said, "they are too vulnerable. On the contrary, aeroplanes, when perfected, can live in the wind and rise to a high altitude. In time of war officers on scouting duty can make several flights in the day and go up at night, as well as to reconnoitre. An aeroplane offers a small target, and if pierced can still fly. If the pilot is killed, it is only another soldier dead on the field of battle.

"We will still have dirigible balloons, but since the tests at Bethany I believe firmly in the future of aeroplanes from a military standpoint."

The disaster to the Republique, coming so close on the death of Lefebvre and Capt. Ferber and the loss of the Patrie, has deeply affected the French, but public opinion, as reflected by the comments of the press, supports the opinion of the aviators that no human sacrifice can now stop the progress of aerial navigation. The Temps announces a national subscription in aid

of military aerostatics in memory of the dead officers.

A personal message from the Emperor of Germany, conveying his sympathy, has been received and has been deeply appreciated.

No Trace of Explosion.

Further investigation has established the fact that the accident was due to the snapping of a rapidly revolving propeller blade, which, as yesterday's reports indicated, tore through the gas bag. Gen. Roques reports that there was no trace of fire about the silk, thus disposing of the hypothesis of an explosion.

The experts agree that such a mishap can be prevented in the future by the introduction of a series of cellular balloonettes, such as are used in the Zeppelin airship. In the case of a balloon so constructed, even if one of the compartments was punctured, the craft would remain afloat.