

WAS IT AN AIRSHIP ?

MYSTERIOUS OBJECT IN THE SKY.

CUSTOMS OFFICER'S REPORT.

On Saturday the Minister for Customs (Mr. Tudor) was acquainted of the presence at Onslow (W.A.) of a mysterious airship, says the Melbourne correspondent of the "Register." The information reached the Minister through Mr. L. O. Timperley, the Sub-Collector of Customs, at Onslow. Mr. Timperley's letter reads:—

I beg to state that in consequence of a report circulated to the effect that an airship had been seen at Minderoo station, I have made further inquiries into the matter, and now place before you the particulars as given me. On Saturday, the 12th instant, I interviewed Mrs. A. J. Roe, wife of the manager of Mr. David Forrest's station at Minderoo, 22 miles out of Onslow, and received from her the following information:—“At 5.30 p.m. on October 25, when at the Minderoo homestead, my attention was directed by a native to a big object in the air several miles away. The object was travelling from us in an easterly direction. It looked compact like a dirigible balloon, but appeared to be square, more like an aeroplane. The sun shone on it, and flashes came from it as though reflected from something revolving, or off metal work. The color of the object was dark brown or black. It was too far away to distinguish its exact nature and size, or whether any persons were in it. There was no mirage at the time, and not on any account could such an object be taken for a bird.” Mrs. Roe stated that she is positive it

Mrs. Roe stated that she is positive it was an airship of some kind, but did not care to sign a statement, for the reason that she could give no details on account of the distance the machine was away. A couple of white men, station hands, and a civilised native, also saw the aerial object from the shearing shed, which is a mile from the homestead. From what I can gather it appears that both parties saw it at about the same time. I to-day interviewed the native, Frank, who drew a rough sketch for me of what he saw, and it resembled a dirigible balloon. He also stated that neither he nor the other natives at Minderoo had seen anything like it before. I venture to think an airship of some kind was seen—the natives are noted for their keen eyesight. I think it improbable that the object seen was a bird, and yet mistaken by them. The strange visitor may be the result of a West Australian inventor, who wishes to perfect his machine before making his invention public, and has chosen this remote locality for his preliminary flight. On the other hand it is possible that some foreign vessel is anchored off the coast reconnoitring the country. Personally, I am convinced that the statement made by Mrs. Roe is authentic. I am, however, at a loss to understand why the occupants of the mysterious aerial visitor did not alight and report when so near to the telegraph station. Should this report not be considered a customs matter, possibly it may be of some use to the military authorities.

Mr. Tudor will probably forward the report to the Minister for Defence (Sr. Pearce), who has charge of the military airship competition. Until the present the Defence Department does not appear to be aware that any one of the competitors has a machine so perfected as to accomplish the flight de-

fects as to accomplish the flight described from Onslow.

Face Covered with Sores.—“ My daughter's face was simply covered with sores, which were a great disfigurement,” writes Mrs. R. O'Brine, 8 Napier-street, S. Melbourne, Victoria. “She had these sores for some time. She went to the doctor's for treatment, but her face was still as bad as ever. She tried all sorts of ointments and tonics for the blood, but they did her no good, until she used Rexona. After the first application the sores seemed to dry up, and in four days the tops of the sores fell off, and she is now completely cured.” Price, 1/6 and 3/.*
