

HOVERCRAFT OF NEAR FUTURE:

Vickers Armstrong research hovercraft, the V.A.1, had an airing for the benefit of the Press, under the eye of its designer, Samuel Hughes. Great prospects are held out for Hovercraft, largely as the result of experience with the V.A.1. Hence, the ambitious V.A.3., being built to carry 24 passengers.

Even one-thousand-tonners may be made soon. Meanwhile wind-tunnel testing of the V.A.3. helps the designers to find the right shape for the hull. The V.A. 3. will carry a load of 4,000 pounds, plus crew.

Already Canada is expected to order a fleet of 10-ton, 25-seaters, to link Victoria with Vancouver Island. Testing here is to cut down spray.

The V.A.3. shows how Hovercraft skim over land and water, supported by a cushion of air. There isn't much doubt that this recent English invention will result in a big new industry.