

Bell to Chas. S. Thompson (Associated Press, N.Y.).

Baddeck, N.S., Feb. 22, 1909:-Experiments were made on the ice here to-day with the new aerodrome built by the Aerial Experiment Association. This is officially known as "Drome No. 5, Bell's Cygnet the second". The machine was operated by Mr. J.A.D. McCurdy of Baddeck.

Cygnet II resembles very much in appearance Dr. Bell's tetrahedral kite, Cygnet the first, which in December 1907 successfully carried up into the air the late Lieut. Selfridge then Secretary of the Aerial Experiment Association, who was afterwards killed in the accident to Orville Wright's aerodrome at Fort Meyer.

Today- the first attempt was made to apply engine power to a tetrahedral structure. The machine had been provided with sledge-runners and an aerial propeller 10 feet in diameter driven by a 50 H.P. 8 cylinder water-cooled motor especially designed by Mr. Glenn H. Curtiss and built by the G. H. Curtiss Mfg. Co. of Hammondsport, New York. It contains 3690 tetrahedral winged cells and weighed 950 lbs. with man and engine on board.

Before the machine had gathered sufficient speed over the ice to get into the air the propeller shaft sheared, and the propeller was thrown violently upon the ice and broken. It will take a few days to make another propeller and in the meantime experiments will be made with Drome No. 4, McCurdy's Silver-Dart. This machine has already made several