

Squire to go to Hammondsport and look over our machines, or detail an officer to report upon them, and express to him our desire to be of assistance to the War Department in this matter without in any way interfering with their dealings with the Wright Brothers. I can say that we are their friends, and not their competitors, and will not do anything that would interfere with their contract with the Government.

I suppose you are now starting on some flights with the June Bug to show Casey the advance you have made in gaining skill in the manner of its operation. There is only one thing I am afraid of in regard to these experiments, and I had quite a serious conversation with Douglas McCurdy about it. The temptation is strong to attempt to carry two men in the June Bug, or in the Silver-Dart, because Orville Wright, Wilbur Wright and Farnham or Delagrange have done it. I do not want you, or any of you to attempt it. It has already been done by others and of course we know that we can do it too, but I do not think that we have any right to run unnecessary risks and am not at all in sympathy with the idea, as it cannot advance our experiments, and it might be possible that we might regret it. Orville Wright, the most experienced aviator of the world, and probably the best, has lost poor Selfridge. Do not let us, with less experience, run any risks of this kind. Nothing can be gained by it, and the weight of another man - a mere mass of lead, and not a living human being, would serve just as well to demonstrate the capabilities of our machine. We would justly lay ourselves open to severe