

They realized from the first the intricate nature of the problem. In discussing their own work they aptly remarked that the best dividends on the labor invested invariably came from seeking more knowledge rather than more power.

While the results obtained by the Wright Brothers were more or less doubted in Europe, France began to take a great interest in the subject. Public spirited men offered prizes for heavier-than-air competition and the French Government encouraged inventors in a practical way.

Santos Dumont, already famous for his dirigible balloon was the first to respond.

He succeeded in making the first official free flight in a double-decked machine of rather clumsy design on the 21st of October 1906. The greatest enthusiasm was aroused by his success and more than fifty machines were built as a direct result of Santos Dumont's achievements. France immediately jumped into the lead and is still far ahead. While it is true that the United States have produced the greatest aviators, France builds ten machines to any other country's one.

In Oct. 1907 Dr. Alexander Graham Bell organized an Association to be known as the Aerial Experiment Association. The Association consisted of five members and had as its object the building and improvement of heavier-than-air machines.

Experiments were first made with a large tetrahedral kite at Dr. Bell's Summer Home in Nova Scotia. The late