

AVIATION:- By F.V. Baldwin.

(A Lecture to be delivered by Mr. Baldwin at the University of Toronto, February 27, 1909).

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It is a matter of encouragement to the Art of Aviation and the cause of Aviation in Canada, that a great Canadian University should be giving some thought to the subject of flying-machines.

Only a few years ago intelligent people scoffed at the idea of flying, and a man needed a good deal of courage to profess his faith in its ultimate accomplishment. Repeated failures had given rise to most unreasonable prejudice. Sweeping criticisms had put the problem in a class with perpetual motion. Scientific men felt that it was an unsafe field in which to risk their reputations, and a popular feeling existed that flight involved some inherent impossibility and was in general a subject to be avoided.

It is difficult to realize how quickly all this has changed, but it is easy to see why it has changed. Flight has actually been accomplished. Machines a thousand times heavier than the air in which they are supported make long and successful voyages. The practicability of flight has been splendidly demonstrated. The world is at last convinced that flying is a reality.

Wilbur Wright, the American Aviator, on the 31st of Dec. 1908, remained in the air for two hours and 18 minutes and covered an official distance of 76 1/2 miles.