

EXPERIMENTS WITH THE SILVER-DART CONTINUED.

March 17, 1909:- Douglas McCurdy started out this morning with the intention of making a sixteen mile flight to show that he could do the distance required as a minimum to win the Scientific American Trophy. The morning seemed to be ideal but the engine was not. He never had a more aggravating day. He put in several good flights but every time, after flying a few miles, the engine lost power and we have come to the conclusion that it is rather a fortunate thing that we had decided not to try for the Trophy under the new conditions imposed by the Aero Club. While we believe that the machine itself is capable of flying an indefinite distance for an indefinite time or so long as the engine and fuel will hold out it is very problematical what the result would be with the present engine we have. If Curtiss could only be here I have no doubt that he could easily arrange the engine so that it should run for the required time to make the required distance but in our hands, unassisted by Curtiss, it is a mere toss-up whether we could get the engine to do it.

I was not present on the ice to-day to witness the experiments but I watched the machine from the Point through a pair of field glasses, rounding the four mile mark about a mile beyond Stony Island in St. Patrick's Channel and kept her in sight until she disappeared behind Kidston's Island. On this occasion she did not reappear at the other end of the island and I could no longer hear the whirl of the propeller