

LAUDER TO BELL.

Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Nov. 9, 1908:-Having heard that you encouraged and experimented in Aerial Navigation, I therefore venture to submit to your valued consideration an idea which I happened to observe while experimenting with kites. You are well aware that if an aeroplane could maintain its position in the air as steadily as a well constructed kite the science of flying would be almost solved. Then the question what keeps its flying so perfectly; the reason I saw for it was this, that the power as applied to the kite was not only in a forward direction but also down. Now if the flying line imparts a force that is also down as well as forward as illustrated in drawing I, why not put an engine and propeller, the propeller exerting its force in precisely the same direction as the flying line in drawing No. II. What I base my theory on is this, that as far as I can gather that in the latest aeroplanes for example the "June Bug" of Mr. G.H. Curtiss, the power is applied parallel or nearly so to the planes.

Now if a kite was to be flown you would not attach the flying line to "K" in drawing I, you know that the kite would under no circumstances fly, yet you are applying the power on a parallel to the plane. But if you wished a successful flight you would fasten the flying line, in other words the power, to the correct spot on the bridle. Then why should not a propeller placed so as to exert its force in the same direction as the flying line, do the same work and keep the kite afloat. I am writing you Dr. Bell from having heard that you are a firm supporter of Aerial Navigation and your highly valued opinion would be very much appreciated.

(Signed) Alfred E. Lauder.