

RESUME OF THE AERIAL EXPERIMENT ASSOCIATION
AT HAMMONDSPORT: Report by G. H. Curtiss,
Director of Experiments.

Before the Association Headquarters were transferred to Hammondsport, word was received to build a glider, the object being to gain some experience before building a power-driven machine.

This glider was built of bamboo and sheeting, and practiced with at various times for the first 60 days, many successful glides being made, some by each of the members. In the meantime, the power-driven machine was started, it being the majority of opinion that greater progress could be made by going at once to the power-drive and practice on the ice. This proved true, although considerable knowledge was gained with the gliders, which were tried with many different forms of tail and control.

The first power machine was Selfridge's "Red Wing". In its first trial Mr. Baldwin made a flight of 320 feet. This was the first public flight of a heavier-than-air machine in America, and the longest first trial ever made by any heavier-than-air machine.

At the second trial of this machine, again ridden by Mr. Baldwin, the strong wind proved too much for the limited controlling surfaces, and the machine was wrecked. By this time the ice had gone, and a machine to run on wheels was built and called Baldwin's "White Wing". This was fitted with adjustable wing tips and several types of running gear were tried. Several successful short flights were made by members of the Association.