

Curtiss to Bell.

To A.G. Bell,  
Baddeck, N.S.

Hammondsport, N.Y., Dec. 2, 1908:— We have had two trials of the "Loon", one Saturday the 28th, and one Sunday the 29th, the engine with our new domes runs all right. In the first trial, after going a few hundred yards, the propeller sheared off. We have been a little afraid of this and in fitting it up for Sunday we used a new fastener. We also opened the auxiliary ports to get more power. On Sunday's trial a run of two miles was made in a little less than 4 1/2 minutes. The boats raised at the bow, but the sterns dragged, although after they get under headway there was very little wave motion. The engine was turning over about 1000 revolutions and driving an 8 ft. propeller. The experiment makes it apparent that it will take a great amount of power to get these boats out of water, as we now have perhaps twice more than would be needed to fly after getting in the air. Those hydroplanes you have been building begin to look good to us. We have not given up, however, as a little wind on the water is not at all prohibitive. We hope to try again with better success, even though we do not have the good weather we have been favored with. The engine has been transferred to the Silver-Dart, which is fitted with new chain transmission, gear pump, oiler, ten gallon gasoline tank and a new propeller. We are having quite a storm to-day, and are unable to do anything at the tent. We are ready, however, for the first opportunity. We sent three pages of "Loon" pictures for the Bulletin on Tuesday. Trust they reach you in time for this week's issue.

(Signed) G.H. Curtiss.