LANCHESTER'S COMPARISON OF THE WRIGHT MACHINE WITH THE VOISIN MACHINE: By J.A.D. McCurdy.

Beinn Bhreagh, Feb. 5, 1909:- In the British Aeronautical Journal for Jan. 1909, Mr. F.W. Lanchester institutes an interesting comparison between the Wright machine and the Voisin machine.

The Wright Machine:- The Wright machine of the present day weighs complete, when mounted by the aviator, 1100 lbs., and has a total supporting surface of 500 sq. ft. approximately, which gives a flying weight of 2.2 lbs. to the sq. ft. The ordinary velocity of flight is 40 miles an hour, or 58 feet per second. The surfaces are approximately 40 feet long, 6.2 feet wide, the plan form being nearly rectangular, the extreme ends only being partially cut away and rounded off. The total area of auxiliary surfaces, including front control, rudder, and vertical half-moon fins, is about 150 sq. ft. The motor used, four cylinder vertical type 4 1/4 x 4; total weight of the motor is 200 lbs., and its power 24 B.H.P. at a speed of 1200 R.P.M.

Mr. Wright has stated to the author, Mr. F.W. Lanchester, that he could fly with as little as 15 or 16 H.P., carrying no passenger. His gliding angle he reported to be about 7°.

The Voisin Machine:- The Voisin machine, as exemplified by that of Mr. Farman, weighs complete, with Mr. Farman, 1540 lbs., and has a total supporting surface of 535 sq. ft. which gives a flying weight of 2.879 lbs. per sq. ft.