

TRIAL OF THE LOON, JAN. 2, 1909: By J.A.D. McCurdy.

Beinn Bhreagh, Jan. 9, 1909:- On January 2, 1909 the "Loon", fitted with its hydro-surfaces, was taken from the shed over to the head of the Lake. After she was placed in the water between her docks the engine was started by Mr. Curtiss and the operator's seat taken by McCurdy. At the signal to let go she started sluggishly forward, and after running for about 100 yards rose on her hydro-surfaces with the pontoons completely out of water.

Immediately it was noticed that instead of running smoothly as was anticipated, gradually gaining in speed, a tremendous commotion was created in the water by the hydro-surfaces, and the maximum speed attained by the machine seemed to be about 8 or 10 miles an hour.

After running down the Lake for a short distance the machine showing no increase of lift, the engine was accidentally shut off by the breaking of an electric wire; there being no wind, however, she was easily towed back to the dock by means of a row-boat.

Newspaper men on shore reported that the machine was seen flying over the Lake and were very enthusiastic about what they thought a flight. Their impression, however, was derived from the fact that, although the boats themselves were out of the water, they didn't realise that the hydro-surfaces were still on the water.

We were satisfied by this time that the hydro-surfaces, as had already been suggested by Mr. Bell, were "ten