

Notes by J.A.D. McCurdy and Alexander Graham Bell, December 5

Dec. 5: —Casey and I are now at the houseboat. Came down to talk things over with Mr. Bell concerning plans etc. re Earl Grey.

Mr. Bell has wakened up a little bit and we have talked with him but I rather think, judging from former experiences, that he will not remember that we have been here. Aviation Canadian A.C.

We propose to go out to Big Baddeck this afternoon to be there early Monday morning. The engine requires adjusting since the new cylinders have been put on and we want to run it a lot. Have a barrel of water connected to engine so that we can run right along in shed without overheating. If Mr. Bell goes away to-morrow afternoon we won't see him again and so will say good-by now. Sorry you aren't awake.

Dec. 5: —Casey and Douglas went out to the testing grounds yesterday (Dec. 14) returning in the evening. They made no attempts at a flight, but fitted the new cylinders on to the engine. The old cylinders were spoiled because the water left in the water-jacket had frozen and cracked the water jacket. New cylinders have been received from the Kirkham Motor Co. at Bath, N.Y. and were fitted to the engine yesterday.

Dec. 5: —A telegram came yesterday (Dec. 4) from Douglas McCurdy from the A.D.C. of Earl Grey, Governor-General of Canada, notifying him that His Excellency would reach the Grand Narrows at about 5 a.m. Dec. 8 and requesting information by mail to Amherst, N.S. as to what arrangements had been made to receive His Excellency here. Miss Mabel B. McCurdy replied for Douglas, who was out at the testing grounds.

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Dec. 5: —Douglas and Casey paid me a visit at the Houseboat this afternoon. They are to leave for the testing grounds this evening, returning to-morrow evening (Dec. 6). I shall probably not go on to Sydney to-morrow afternoon, but stay till after dinner and join the train at the Grand Narrows. AGB

Dec. 5: — Have occupied myself today reading the new Recorder, the Outlook, the volumes of Roe of the American Breeders' Association, Andrew Carnegie's book on "Problems of today", and David's plan about Plant Utilization Society. Also walked out of doors for over two hours, returned to Houseboat and had a long nap. Am enjoying this, my last visit to the Houseboat this season. AGB

Dec. 5: —The mice have opened my paraffine paper packet and have stolen most of the chicken. Two big holes there now. The tumbler with egg-cup in it seems o.K. AGB

Dec. 5: — Water-tight pipe connecting houseboat with gully has burst at one place. Evidently been frozen. Ask Byrnes to tube it to pins for the winter and empty water-tank and pipes in Houseboat. Saw a great disturbance in pond as though a lot of little fish were jumping about all at same place. Investigation shows that water pipe passing through bush near there has burst — and the fine water spray projected from the leak through the brambles of the bush, falling into the pond occasions the appearance. AGB