Orville Wright Says 10,000 Airplanes Would End the War Within Ten Weeks

Building a Vast Aerial Fleet Is "the One Thing That the United States Can Do and Do Quickly."—Our Plants Equal to the Task

TELLING POINTS FROM ORVILLE WRIGHT'S FIRST

"The way to stop the war is simply to drive the Germans from the skies."
"When the Germans have been driven out of the air, the Allies will be supreme and the war will end."
"At present the difference between five years or more of war and an early victory for the Allies is 10,000 airplanes."
"We have the industrial plants, which could soon be adapted for the turning out of airplane motors. ** ** There seems no reason to doubt that in a year hence we will have sent abroad thousands of fighting airplanes that will be better than anything yet produced."

WHEN Orville Wright, inventor of the flying machine and the first man in the world to fly, was asked to express his opinion as to the probable effect of an efficient carrying out of the Aircraft Production Board's plan for an appropriation of $650,000,000 for 23,000 airplanes and thousands of aviators, he replied that, as the war was now being run absolutely from above, the United States could win it in the air. Ten thousand flying machines, he said, would end the war in ten weeks.

Mr. Wright has fitted up an experimental laboratory in Dayton, Ohio, at his own expense, is running it at his own expense, and offers entirely free of cost to all persons engaged in helping the Government obtain the tremendous air fleet required to defeat Germany any advice or other assistance, including the making of laboratory tests, that he has at his power to give. He is busy today, with a few assistants, including Charles E. Taylor, who has been with the Wrights since 1900 as chief mechanic, working out new problems which are presenting themselves to the flying men at the front. From that scientific center, discoveries which will tend further to perfect all kinds of aircraft may therefore be expected to come.

It was in Dayton that Mr. Wright talked about the Government's airplane program and the outlook for victory in the air.

"It is my opinion," he said, "that a large airplane fleet is the key to stop the war. If it were possible for the United States to deliver tomorrow several thousand flying machines in France, the war would be won by the Allies in a few weeks. The way to stop the war is simply to drive the Germans from the skies, and this can be done only by a preponderance of fighting machines. By fighting machines I mean little airplanes carrying one man and a rapid-fire machine gun.

"When the Germans have been driven out of the air, the Allies will be supreme and the war will end. To do this we need a great number of small airplanes of the sort that have successfully chased the Zeppelins. At present the difference between five years or more of war and an early victory for the Allies is ten thousand airplanes."
One of Canada's Battleplanes, Capable of Traveling 102 Miles an Hour. The United States Has Not Yet Turned Out Fighting Craft of the Allied Type. (Photo Brown Bros.)

Because, don't you see, by doing this the enemy may be able to avoid the fire altogether. Is it not possible that their fire is ineffective? It is the accuracy of aim now possible to both sides that results in the presence of airplanes to direct the fire. Take from Germany her aerial aids, and immediately they would begin to do what most hurts the feelings of a German; that is, they would be forced to waste ammunition and time. The destruction of the Airmen is accomplished in a few minutes, and France and England have spent millions in experimental work and with satisfactory results. Naturally, with such efficient men, mess halls, and so on, devising ways and means of getting down house, barns, fences, and other obstructions on the 3,000-acre field. This training ground has been named the Wilbur Wright Field.

The Government has just started the production of airplanes to a large extent based on that field to cost $700,000. It is authorized that Dayton, which was the flying machine to the world, will perform the greatest work of the world’s first plane, training men to fly safely, and supplying aircraft to the Allies, training men, and producing battle planes in several large factories. The Government has just started the work of producing airplanes on a large scale, first to be used on the field of battle. This new field of battle, which has been named the Wilbur Wright Field.

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