

"There Might Be Something in These Flying Saucer Stories"

The discovery of "flying saucer" plans in the Commonwealth Chief Patents Office in Canberra, has caused a sensation in Australian scientific and aeronautical circles and many observers who have previously laughed off "saucers" as figments of imagination are now wondering whether the plans could be the forerunners of existing aircraft.

While most scientists are waiting for further reports from overseas before committing themselves, Sir Kerr Grant made this comment in Adelaide last night:—

"In view of the discovery of patents, I must admit that I am beginning to think there might be something in these flying saucer stories."

It seemed possible that the United States might be developing some such aircraft, Sir Kerr Grant said.

"Like so many people, I was originally sceptical, but my state of mind on the flying saucer question is now qualified to one of suspended judgment," he added.

CANBERRA, April 5.—"Flying Saucer" plans, mostly overseas patents, have been lying in pigeonholes in the Commonwealth chief patents office for more than 10 years.

Experts who have examined

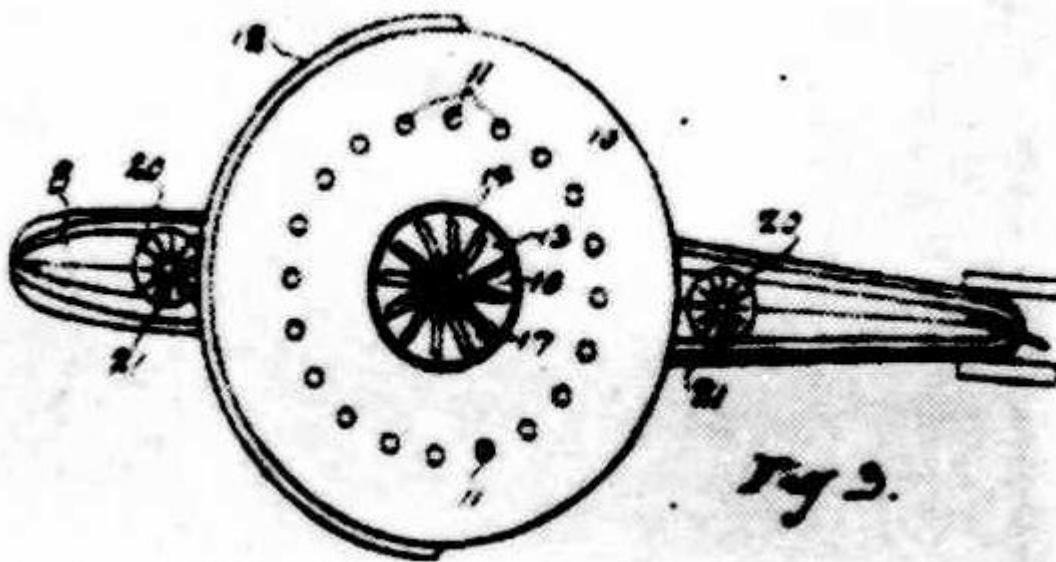
four patents, which date back to 1930, say that they all embody the same fundamental

principle, and, if developed, might well produce a practical aircraft identical with the saucers reported hurtling across America.

First applicant for a patent was an Australian, Mr. Charles Edmund Johnson, who lodged his application in November, 1930. He gave his address then as Hill street, West Hobart.

Other patents were received from Japan, France and the US.

Success of the inventions, the plans showed, depended on the development of jet engines. Lacking these, the inventors depended on a blower driven by an ordinary engine which probably would have made their saucers unworkable.



The Patents Office in Canberra already has specifications of flying saucers. Here is a drawing of the first flying saucer invented by a Tasmanian in 1930.



Another flying saucer invented by a Frenchman in 1936.