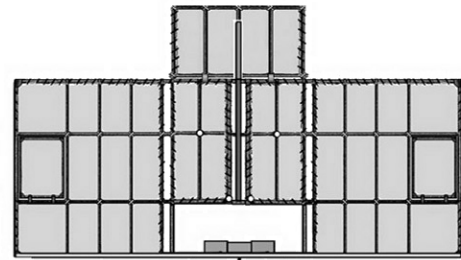
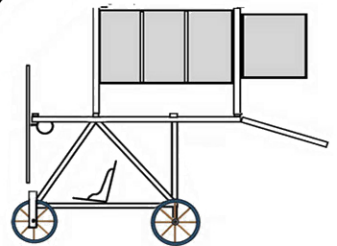


NEW ZEALAND'S **RICHARD PEARSE**
'BAMBOO DICK'



Through the *Scientific American* magazine, Pearse kept in touch with foreign inventors. He seems to have been working on ideas for powered flight from 1899 and had built his first two-cylinder gasoline engine by 1902. Using bamboo, tubular steel, wire and canvas, he then constructed the low aspect ratio monoplane.



After considerable taxiing on his farm paddocks Pearse made his first public flight attempt down the Main Waitohi Road adjacent to his farm. After a short distance aloft, perhaps 50 yards, he crashed on top of his own gorse fence. No details were recorded by Pearse or onlookers of this historic flight.