

\$15,000,000 ARMY BOMBER PLANT IN COBB COUNTY TO EMPLOY 40,000



Construction Staff Photo—Kenneth Rogers

PLAN FOR BOMBER PLANT—Negotiations for construction of a \$15,000,000 Army bomber plant at the new Marietta airport by the Bell Aircraft Corporation were completed yesterday by these officials. Seated, left to right, are George McMillan, Cobb county commissioner; William J. O'Connor, counsel for the Bell Company; James V. Carmichael, attorney, and L. M. (Rip) Blair, Marietta mayor. Standing, left to right, are Ivan Allen, Carl Wolff and Frank Shaw, of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce.

Huge 4-Motor Planes To Be Constructed

**Assembly Factory Will
Be Ready in Eight
Months.**

Plans to rush construction of a \$15,000,000 Army bomber plant near Marietta, which will employ 40,000 men and women with a pay roll estimated at \$1,500,000 per week, were announced yesterday by William J. O'Connor, counsel for the Bell Aircraft Corporation, of Buffalo, N. Y., and Marietta and Cobb county officials.

O'Connor and Cobb county officials signed all agreements yesterday in Marietta and announced "we are ready to go."

Construction of the huge plant, third largest in the United States, is scheduled to begin probably February 10 and be in production within eight months. The plant will be located on the west side of the new airport at Marietta between the old and new highways.

Hitch Arises

Although O'Connor and Mayor L. M. McMillan and county Commissioner George McMillan said everything was settled so far as the site was concerned, a hitch developed when Commander Ward Harrigan, of the Naval Reserve Aviation unit at Marietta, declared the Navy wants the new Marietta airport on the site of the old one for Navy use.

"If the Navy persists we will relinquish the site and move the plant's location outside the state of Georgia," O'Connor declared emphatically.

Civic leaders of Marietta and Atlanta yesterday were attempting to get the Navy not to condemn the field—promising help in getting the Navy out of Georgia.

O'Connor said he could recall but two other airplane plants in Georgia—one to be built at Marietta, and another of these is in the south.

He said the Bell Aircraft Corporation is urging construction, privately financed if possible, of 1,000 new home units to house the

plant workers. Labor, as much as possible, will be drawn from this section and trained for the assembly line work.

The plant is to produce a new bomber plane larger and faster than any in the air now, but O'Connor said he could not remember the name of the plane or details about the plane.

The assembly line building will be 400 feet wide and 2,500 feet long—a total of 2,500,000 square feet of space, and planes will be produced on an endless belt line.

The site, which he would approve if the only one he would approve in this area, is 682 acres. It borders the west side of the new field, which already has runways down and out, and hangars going up. It is located about three miles from Smyrna, and three miles from Marietta, being near the Moseley stop on the street car line.

Utilities Extended. Water facilities are being run to the site, and electricity and natural gas lines are already near. The high tension power line near the Moseley stop of the airport will be extended.

"Our company, the Bell Aircraft Corporation, was asked by the United States Army Air Corp to produce a Boeing bomber of a new type," O'Connor asserted in a news conference yesterday in a room at the Marietta office of James V. Carmichael, attorney.

The new bomber is called the B-29 and has not yet been put into production. Tests of this new plane show it has the longest range of any bombers now flying, will be completed in August. It will have 12 engines and crews of eight.

"The Defense Plant Administration is financing this plant, which is to be a permanent one."

Forecast Praised

The aircraft official praised the foresightedness of Cobb county in building this new airport, which will be donated to the bomber plant by the county. Cobb county has options on all land needed by the company for its assembly plant.

O'Connor said that the field will be used for testing that new bombers

Cobb county officials emphasize that the agreement with the Bell company allows private flying on the field for the agreement to be made for commercial flying.

The corporation is a very well known that his company will be doing a great deal of subcontracting in this area, which will be a boon for many manufacturing plants in the state and section.

He said it will use concrete for the construction of struts and tubing and steel for the other.

Survey Planned

The advantages of subcontracting for such items has never been "scratched" in this area, he remarked.

He indicated that a survey to find and list the usefulness of every machine in the section will be made. Around Bufallo, he pointed out, a survey of all machines in the hours they work, what they can make, etc., is already in use.

O'Connor declared that about 15 per cent of the persons employed in the plant will be women. Women will do many of the simple machine operations on the assembly line, he asserted.

He said the rate of pay for "white collar" workers in supervisory capacities will begin at \$2,600 per year, and that skilled labor may will begin at 85 cents an hour and unskilled at 70 cents per hour.

To Open Office

"It appears there are about 10,000 workers in this area and there are now available for jobs in this area," O'Connor said.

"In Bufallo, he said, his company is advertising in the papers for workers.

A personal office will be set up in Atlanta, near probably next month, and persons hired to help make the bombers will be trained.

"The work is simple and we will have the trainees in about three weeks," the contract asserted. He said his company will employ a number of experts to cause O'Connor said he was hopeful that no one would wish to cause the company to abandon the Marietta development.

"We are looking for three cities with this plant," he said, signing.

Will Loan

Carl Wolff, president of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, Allen, former president; Frank Shaw, head of the industrial bureau of the City and County of Atlanta; and Ivan Allen, president of Atlanta, were influential in bringing the big plant to this city, along with Cobb county leaders, including L. M. Blair, Mayor of Marietta; James V. Carmichael, Cobb county attorney; and George McKnight, county commissioner. Final details of securing the land, power and other facilities for the plant were completed in Marietta Friday.

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Brand-New Type

The type of plane expected to be built here is not yet in production at any plant and its final test flights are not expected to be held until August, about the time the local plant is scheduled to be completed. Mr. O'Connor, while unable because of military censorship to give the number of planes to be manufactured here, said the output would be "very large."

Mr. O'Connor said the plant contemplated for the Atlanta area will be "one of the largest" in the nation, there being only two or three others of comparable size. The air firm executive said Atlanta was chosen for the plant site because of the "natural facilities" and "the ability to get labor" in this section. He declared the Atlanta area held great promise in small manufacturers who would be able to supply vital plane parts. He added that an office will be set up here by the Bell firm as soon as the way for construction is cleared, and that Bell investigators will confer with the vocational school heads in this section looking toward the training of plant workers.

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