

PROGRESS AT HOME AND ABROAD

SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL AIR LINES

SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL AIR LINES, LTD., has been formed with a view to operating an air service between Southampton and Hull, via Nottingham. We understand that a monopoly of the route, so far as Southampton is concerned, has been granted by the Southampton authorities. That is to say, no other company will be permitted for twelve months to operate over that particular route. It is intended to link Southampton with London Scottish & Provincial Airways at Nottingham, and with K.L.M. at Hull, but operation will not commence until a few days previous to the opening of the services run by those companies. It is thought that in the early stages three services a day will be run between Southampton and Hull, and the fare for the single journey will probably be about £4, a reduction of 10 per cent. being made on a return ticket. Two "Cheetah" engined Airspeed "Courier" aircraft will be used, with one machine in reserve.

AIR MAILS IN MARCH

THE Postmaster-General announces that during the quarter ended March 31, 52,800 lb. of letter air mails were carried from this country, as compared with 34,300 lb. in the corresponding quarter of 1933, an increase of 54 per cent. The most striking increase took place in the case of the European air services, the carryings in the March quarter, 1934, being 16,400 lb., as compared with 8,200 lb. in the March quarter, 1933, an increase of 100 per cent. The following is a detailed comparison between air mail traffic during the March quarter, 1934, and the corresponding quarter last year:—

	March Quarter, 1933	March Quarter, 1934	Increase
	lb.	lb.	Per cent.
<i>Air Letters</i>			
Indian Air Service (including Egypt, Iraq, etc.)	14,900	22,000	48
African Air Service	5,200	7,700	48
Other extra-European Services ..	6,000	6,700	12
European Services	8,200	16,400	100
Total Air Letters	34,300	52,800	54
Total Air Parcels	27,800	33,700	21
Total Letters and Parcels ..	62,100	86,500	39

It is estimated that about 400,000 more letters were sent from this country during the March quarter of 1934 than during the corresponding quarter of 1933.

"AIRADIO" SERVICE FOR IMPERIAL AIRWAYS

ARRANGEMENTS have been completed by Imperial Airways for the despatch of private wireless messages to and from their aircraft while flying over India, Africa and

all, except European, countries on Imperial Airways Empire routes. The service will be known as the "Airadio Service," and came into operation on May 1. "Airadios" can now be despatched from aircraft to wireless telegraph stations between Cairo and Singapore and Cairo and Capetown, for transmission to most parts of the world, and from ordinary telegraph offices to passengers on board Imperial Airways aircraft. In the case of aircraft flying over India, however, the Indian Government will not at present allow private messages to be transmitted to aircraft from their ground stations. "Airadios" may be accepted in code or in clear, excepting in India, where at present only messages in clear are allowed.

A NEW TATA SERVICE ?

A NIGHT air mail service between Bombay and Calcutta has been considered by Tata & Sons. Machines would leave at 9 p.m. in both directions and arrive at 7 a.m. The present train service takes nearly two days.

MADRAS-CALCUTTA SERVICE WITHDRAWN

THE air service between Madras and Calcutta ceased operation on April 1, after running for two months, owing to the lack of support. It is reported that an average of 5 lb. of mail were carried on each trip and one passenger every three trips.

AIRSHIP SHED AT RIO

A CONTRACT for the erection of an airship hangar at Rio de Janeiro, involving a sum of about 3,000,000 Reichsmarks, has been placed by the Condor Syndicate with the Gutehoffnungshütte, a German firm which has its works at Oberhausen.

AIRSHIP CONNECTION BETWEEN HOLLAND AND DUTCH EAST INDIES

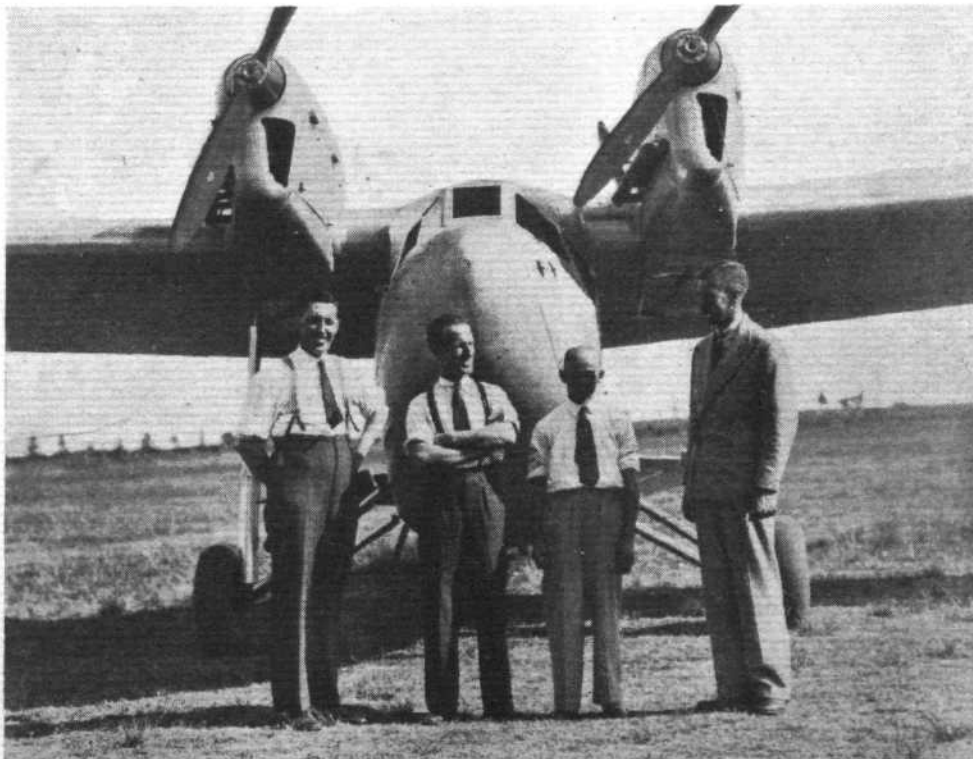
NEGOTIATIONS between the Luftschiffbau Zeppelin G.m.b.H. and Dutch steamship interests relative to the establishment of an airship service between Holland and the Dutch East Indies have been proceeding favourably. The results so far have been so encouraging that it is rumoured in German aviation circles that there is a possibility of the service being inaugurated this year. In this event, the Zeppelin L.Z-129, now nearing completion at Friedrichshafen, would be acquired by Holland, and the construction of another dirigible for Germany started immediately.

K.L.M. SUMMER SERVICES

THE summer time-table of K.L.M. takes effect on May 1. From that date the Amsterdam-Batavia trip will take 7½ instead of 8 days. Jask, in Persia, will be reached in three days instead of five.

ITALIAN SOUTH ATLANTIC CONNECTION ?

It now seems possible that, in accordance with the programme drawn up at the beginning of the year by Gen. Valle, the Italian Under-Secretary for Air, that an Italian air line may be established between Rome and Santiago, Chile. In view of the well-tryed qualities possessed by certain types of Italian flying boats, Italy may become a serious candidate for the South Atlantic service.



ALL-AUSTRALIAN : On March 6 successful first trial flights of Sir Charles Kingsford Smith's Australian-built monoplane, the "Codock" (Napier "Javelin" engines), were carried out at Mascot Aerodrome. Here we see a portion of the "Codock," with (from left to right) Wing Commander Wackett (designer and builder), Sir Charles Kingsford Smith, Sqd. Ldr. (Tiny) White (who will fly the machine to New Zealand), and Mr. M. P. Allsopp (Aviation Representative of the Vacuum Oil Co., Pty., Ltd.). Plume and Mobiloil Aero W. were used during the test flights.