

South African Air Mail

REFERRING to the particulars of the South African Air Mail Service, given on p. 200 of our issue of April 2, For the benefit of those who may remember some of South Africa's airmen during the War, a few names may be of interest. Major Meintjes has had a roving commission up to now, and has been flying from base to base organising. Capt. Hector Daniels is at the Capetown end. Capt. Meredith is at the Durban end. Capt. Hamman is at Port Elizabeth. The other pilots are Lieuts. Schoeman, Tasker, Burger, Joubert, Caspareutheus, Hiscock, Roos. All are South Africans, and all are first-rate pilots with plenty of hard-won experience. A fortnight with them revealed the high sense of duty and *esprit de corps* that the force possesses, while it is very unlikely whether any air force in the world has a greater regard and respect for its C.O. than South African pilots have for Sir Pierrie van Ryneveld, the Director of Air Services.

An American Airship in Trouble, Too

ON the same day that the R.33 broke away one of the American airships smashed her steering gear and drifted away rudderless with a crew of seven on board, passing over Granite City, across the Mississippi, and eventually landing without mishap at Black Walnut.

"Joystick" Claims

A DECISION was given in Paris on April 20, in the claim for 20,000,000 fr. made by M. R. Esnault-Pelterie against a number of British aircraft manufacturers in respect to "joystick" royalties. The president of the court decided that the claim could not succeed. He held that the court was incompetent to give a judgment because it really concerned the British Government.

The F.A.I. and Czechoslovakia

AT the end of September next the International Aeronautical Federation will hold a Congress at Prague, when 27 States will be represented. Czechoslovakia, having always been very keen in matters aeronautical, is displaying considerable interest and assistance in the matter, and the Ministries of National Defence and Public Works have granted large sums for the Congress, while a special committee composed of representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, National Defence, Public Works and the Aero Club has been elected to make preparations. The programme will include several banquets given to the delegates by the Czechoslovak Aero Club, the Federation of Pilots, Aircraft Constructors, etc., while other events will consist of a gala performance at the National Theatre, a flying meeting, and visits to the Czechoslovak aircraft works.

Gordon Shephard Memorial Prize

THE Gordon Shephard Memorial Prizes, which are given annually for the best essays submitted by members of the Royal Air Force on subjects selected by the Air Council, have been awarded as follows in the 1924 competition:—

First Essay.—First prize, Flying Officer E. J. Kingston McCloughry, D.S.O., D.F.C.; second prize, Flight-Lieut. A. S. G. Lee, M.C.

Second Essay.—First prize, Squadron-Leader J. L. Vachell, M.C.; second prize, Wing-Comdr. E. D. M. Robertson, D.F.C.; third prize, Squadron-Leader L. L. MacLean.

The competition was established as a memorial to the late Brig.-Gen. G. S. Shephard, D.S.O., M.C., Royal Air Force.

Royal Aeronautical Society

WILL readers please note that the thirteenth Wilbur Wright Lecture will be held in the Library of the Royal Aeronautical Society, 7, Albemarle Street, London, W. 1, at 8.30 p.m. on April 30, when Rear-Admiral D. W. Taylor, U.S.N., will lecture on "Some Aspects of the Comparison of Model and Full-Scale Tests."

Wrigley-Ford Aeroplanes?

ONCE again, it would seem, chewing gum is to play an important part in aviation, for it is reported that Philip Wrigley—whose name is well known to those who are in the habit of attempting to solve the problem of perpetual motion—has joined forces with Mr. Henry Ford, Mr. Edsel Ford and Detroit and New York bankers in organising American Airways, Ltd.

The Aeroplane and the Bank

It is reported that just recently a bank failed at Bogota, Columbia, with the result that a serious run was threatened upon all the other banks. In order to meet the situation the Government of the Republic of Columbia declared all business suspended for three days, and sent seaplanes to Barranquilla (on the coast) for banknotes and securities, the journey there and back taking 48 hours, as against 14 days by boat. When the banks in Bogota reopened, they were ready to meet all demands.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, 1924-1925

AEROPLANES, airships, balloons and parts thereof (not shown separately before 1910). For 1910 and 1911 figures see "FLIGHT" for January 25, 1912; for 1912 and 1913, see "FLIGHT" for January 17, 1914; for 1914, see "FLIGHT" for January 15, 1915; for 1915, see "FLIGHT" for January 13, 1916; for 1916, see "FLIGHT" for January 11, 1917; for 1917, see "FLIGHT" for January 24, 1918; for 1918, see "FLIGHT" for January 16, 1919; for 1919, see "FLIGHT" for January 22, 1920; for 1920, see "FLIGHT" for January 13, 1921; for 1921, see "FLIGHT" for January 19, 1922; for 1922 see "FLIGHT" for January 18, 1923; for 1923, see "FLIGHT" for January 17, 1924; and for 1924, see "FLIGHT" for January 22, 1925.

	Imports.		Exports.		Re-Exports.	
	1924.	1925.	1924.	1925.	1924.	1925.
Jan. . .	2,213	3,546	52,239	83,728	2,219	291
Feb. . .	920	985	26,349	85,639	335	20
Mar. . .	11,381	—	34,113	56,881	509	9,355
	14,514	4,531	112,701	226,248	3,063	9,666

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PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

Department of Overseas Trade. Report on the Economic and Financial Conditions in Belgium, December, 1924. By J. Picton Bagge. H.M. Stationery Office, Kingsway, London, W.C. Price 3s. 6d. net.

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SIDE-WINDS

As will have been gathered elsewhere in this issue, wireless played quite a big part in the involuntary flight by R. 33 over the North Sea, and it may be of interest to note in this connection that the famous "Exide" batteries, supplied by the Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., of Manchester, formed a part of the R. 33's equipment.

THE Royal Air Force not only—and rightly too—prides itself upon being smart and up-to-date in the matter of machines and its skilful pilots, but upon the general appearance of its officers' and men's uniforms. Burch's at 401, Strand, W.C. 2, have for some time past made a profound study of R.A.F. officers' uniforms, and have brought the whole issue from the point of fit and price to a fine art. Any officer requiring an outfit would materially profit by consulting Mr. H. M. Dain, the proprietor, who spares neither time nor trouble to give utmost satisfaction to the minutest detail.

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AERONAUTICAL PATENT SPECIFICATIONS

Abbreviations: Cyl. = cylinder; i.c. = internal combustion; m. = motor. The numbers in brackets are those under which the Specifications will be printed and abridged, etc.

APPLIED FOR IN 1924

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- 4,688. CHANCE BROS. AND CO., LTD., and H. O. WRAITH. Lighthouse, etc. (231,297.)
 5,336. BLACKBURN AEROPLANE AND MOTOR CO., LTD. and J. D. RENNIE. Landing-gear. (231,302.)
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