



AIRISMS FROM THE FOUR WINDS.

Sir Samuel Hoare's Flight to India

THE D.H. "Hercules," carrying Sir Samuel Hoare, Lady Maud Hoare, Air Vice-Marshal Sir Geoffrey Salmond and party to India, on the inaugural flight of the Cairo-Karachi Imperial Air Route, has been making good progress since it left Croydon on December 27 last. So far the flight has been accomplished according to the pre-arranged schedule (which was published in last week's FLIGHT), in spite of bad patches of weather *en route*, and high praise is accorded the pilot, Capt. F. L. Barnard, and navigator, Sq.-Ldr. E. L. Johnson. The flight was resumed from Marseilles at 7.40 a.m. on December 28, arriving at Naples at 3.48 p.m. (G.M.T.), having made a stop for lunch at Pisa and a brief halt at Capua. Visibility was bad at the start, but along the Riviera the weather was fine as far as Genoa, after which fog and rain were encountered. At Naples they were received by the acting Consul-General, the British Air Attaché in Rome, and representatives of the Italian military, naval and air forces, before a large crowd. In the evening they were entertained, as guests of the City of Naples, at a banquet presided over by General Capuzzo. Bad weather was again experienced when the journey was resumed to Malta next day. Heavy rain squalls were encountered over the Mediterranean from Catania (Sicily), where a halt was made, but Malta was reached in safety, that afternoon. On December 30 the sea crossing from Malta to Khoms was successfully accomplished, the "Hercules" being escorted a part of the way by R.A.F. machines. Having lunched at Khoms, the journey was resumed to Benghazi. Unfortunately, Mr. Emmott, the photographer with the party, missed the machine at Malta and was left behind! Aboukir was reached on December 31, "according to plan," three Bristol "Fighters" of No. 208 Squadron meeting the "Hercules" *en route* and escorting it into the aerodrome. Sir Samuel Hoare was received by Air Vice-Marshal Webb-Bowen and a guard of honour of the R.A.F. The short stage from Aboukir to Ziza was completed on January 1, and the next day the 543-mile trip to Baghdad across the desert was safely accomplished, detours being made to fly over Babylon, Ctesiphon and Ur. A stop for lunch was made at Rutbah Wells, and at Baghdad the party was received by the High Commissioner, Sir Henry Dobbs, a representative of King Feisal, and a distinguished gathering. A banquet was held that night at which King Feisal was present. Sir Sefton Brancker joined the party at Baghdad, when he arrived on December 29. On January 3 the journey was continued to Bushire with a halt for lunch at Basra, from which place the "Hercules" was escorted by two R.A.F. machines. The ninth stage, Bushire—Lingeh—Jask, was completed without incident on January 4, the "Hercules" landing at Lingeh 15 mins. after the two D.H. "Moths" piloted by Stack and Leete of the Lancashire Ae. Club had passed overhead. It would seem, therefore, that by the time FLIGHT is in the hands of most of our readers the "Hercules" will have arrived safely at Karachi.

The "Moths" Progress

THE two D.H. "Moths" piloted by Capt. T. N. Stack and Mr. B. S. Leete, of the Lancashire Aero Club, left Bushire on January 4 at 3 a.m. and reached Bandar Abbas at 7.46 a.m. After a stop of about 3 hours they proceeded to Jask.

The Duke of York's Tour

WHEN the Duke and Duchess of York leave Portsmouth in H.M.S. "Renown" to-day, *en route* for Australia, four Supermarine "Southampton" flying-boats (Napier "Lions") will escort the warship down the Channel as far as the extreme south-westerly point of the Isle of Wight.

U.S. Army Pan-American Flight

THE five U.S. Army Loening amphibians, under the command of Maj. H. A. Dargue, which left Kelly Field, San Antonio, on December 21, on a tour round South America, reached Guatemala City on January 2.

French Madagascar Flight

LIEUT. BERNARD, one of the three French pilots who are engaged in a sort of aerial general post between France and Madagascar, arrived at Aboukir on or about December 31

on his way back to France from Madagascar. He is flying a Lioré-Olivier flying-boat fitted with a French Bristol "Jupiter" engine.

Air Survey of Saskatchewan

IT is reported from Ottawa that plans are now far advanced for a comprehensive geological survey of Saskatchewan, with the object of developing the latent mineral wealth in Northern areas. Huge stores of petrol and oil have been, and are being, placed at convenient spots in the north country, ready to supply two specially constructed seaplanes which will start as early in the spring as possible in the making of aerial maps. Already a three-year programme has been mapped out for these machines. The object of the aerial survey will be to pave the way for the geologists, who will work immediately behind the map-makers. The geologists will locate the mineralised areas, and then the prospectors will be in a position to enter and locate the minerals.

Venice-Vienna Air Line

GOOD progress has been made with the Venice-Vienna air service since it commenced operations on Aug. 18 last. From this date up to December 15 last, 172 flights have been completed, and 71,000 kms. (44,000 miles) flown; 516 passengers, and 15,078 kgs. (22,247 lbs.) of freight and mail have been carried. An efficiency of 98 per cent. has been maintained. This service is continued during the winter with remarkable regularity—without any schedule or route alterations—in spite of the fact that weather conditions generally are unfavourable in the winter, especially in the Alpine zone and over the Semmering chain, where machines have to fly above 4,000 m. (13,120 ft.).

A Rome-Berlin Air Service

DURING next March experimental flights will be made on the proposed Rome-Berlin air line. For operational purposes this line will be divided into three sections. From Rome to Milan it will be operated entirely by Italian personnel and machines; between Milan and Munich by German and Italian personnel together; and between Munich and Berlin, entirely by German personnel.

Seine-Thames Service Again

ONCE again it is proposed to inaugurate an air service, starting this January, between Suresnes on the Seine and Westminster on the Thames. This service will be operated by the French Air Union, with a Lioré and Olivier flying-boat (the same type which flew successfully to Madagascar) fitted with a "Jupiter" engine.

New Italian World's Records ?

IT is reported that the Italian pilot Passaleva has established new world's records during a flight of 1,000 kms. at Serto Calende recently, incidentally bettering several of his previous records. His seaplane carried a load of 2,000 kgs., and Passaleva claims to have set up new speed records for a seaplane carrying loads of 500, 1,000, and 2,000 kgs.

Fatal Air Collision in America

TWO U.S. Army aeroplanes came into collision when flying over Chanute Field, Rantoul, Ill., on December 22, and as a result, four airmen lost their lives. The machines collided head-on at an altitude of about 400 ft., and caught fire at the moment of impact.

Mooring Masts for Canada and South Africa

THE Governments of Canada and the Union of South Africa have both formally asked for the help of British experts regarding the erection of airship mooring masts in their respective Dominions, as suggested by Sir Samuel Hoare at the last Imperial Conference. Expert advisers will, therefore, visit these Dominions early this year, in order to discuss the various problems connected with the choice of sites, construction and erection, etc., of the masts.

A Record Glide ?

DR. E. CATTANCO, a member of the Students' Gliding Club of the Pavia University, Italy, claims to have established a world's record for a gliding flight in a straight line. Starting from the top of Campo Mountain, he glided downwards to the Olona Valley, covering a distance of 7½ miles in 16 minutes.