

# PINEDO BACK IN ROME

## Successful Conclusion to 25,000-Mile Flight

COL. THE MARCHESE DI PINEDO, after an absence of four months during which he flew some 25,000 miles and made two crossings of the Atlantic, has returned safely to Italy, and has thus concluded what must certainly be recorded as—next, perhaps to the Round-the-World flight—the greatest flight made in the history of aviation. Accompanied by Capt. del Prete and Sig. Zacchetti he set out from Sesto Calende in his Savoia S. 55 mono-seaplane on February 8 last, and flying almost daily—with only occasional breaks here and there—journeyed along the west coast of Africa, across the Atlantic to Brazil, then down to Buenos Aires, up through central South America, along the West Indies to New Orleans in the U.S.A., thence to Roosevelt Dam, near the Pacific coast. Here—on April 5—fate, assisted by sky-larking youths destroyed his machine and thus broke the wonderfully steady and dogged progress of his flight.

With surprisingly little delay, however, a new machine of the same type was sent out to him from Italy, and, on May 2 he started off once more from New York, and after visiting Boston he worked his way down to New Orleans once more. From here he resumed, so to speak, the thread of the story and proceeded to complete his tour of the U.S. by flying north via Memphis and Chicago. Thence he flew to Canada, making Montreal and Quebec; next came New Brunswick and Newfoundland, and then the second crossing of the Atlantic to the Azores. On this stage he experienced what was perhaps the only big misadventure of the flight; he was, owing to strong head winds and a resulting shortage of petrol, forced to alight on the sea some 300 miles from the Azores, and had to be towed into Horta—an operation

which lasted several days and caused slight damage to the seaplane.

However, having repaired the damage to the "Santa Maria II" he set out from Horta on June 10 and after flying to the spot where he made his forced descent continued his journey homewards via St. Michael's Island. He arrived at Lisbon on June 11, and Barcelona on June 13. This brings us to the point where we left him last week.

On June 14 the Marchese flew to the Cuatro Vientos aerodrome, Madrid, in a Spanish military aeroplane, and was received there by the Minister of Marine and a number of Italian Fascists. Later he met the Marquis de Estella, Minister of War, and together with the Italian Ambassador attended a luncheon given by the Government and aviation authorities. The following day the Marchese di Pinedo went to the Royal Palace and had luncheon with King Alfonso. In recognition of his flight the Marchese was appointed an honorary colonel in the Spanish Air Force, and was awarded the Spanish Air Medal.

Returning to Barcelona, the Marchese concluded the final stage of his "raid" on June 16 with a six-and-a-half hour flight to Ostia, Rome. He was sighted there by the many thousands waiting to greet him at 5 p.m., escorted by four seaplanes. After making a couple of circuits, amid great enthusiasm, the "Santa Maria II" alighted gracefully on the water some distance out. Motor launches at once took the machine in tow to a buoy, and the Marchese and his companions were conveyed to the Ostia pier, where they were officially received.

Signor Mussolini received the airmen personally—and in private—in company with Cardinal Vannutelli, Archbishop of Ostia, and other high officials. The first to greet the Marchese



**PINEDO'S BIG FLIGHT :** The Savoia S.55 mono-seaplane, fitted with two 500 h.p. Isotta-Fraschini engines. Above, Col. The Marchese di Pinedo, the famous Italian pilot who just completed his 25,000-mile tour, involving two Atlantic crossings.