



African Survey Flight

SIR ALAN COBHAM and his crew of the Short "Singapore" flying-boat are now flying south to Rhodesia and South Africa. They arrived at the southern end of Lake Victoria on February 24, and thus completed the Dominions Office experimental flight from Alexandria down the Nile to Mwanza, back to Khartum, and then back again to Mwanza.

Air Survey in Rhodesia

MAJOR COCHRAN-PATRICK of the Aircraft Operating Co., Ltd., who has been carrying out an air survey of the Zambesi for 400 miles upstream, together with 500 miles of the Kabompo River, has temporarily suspended operations owing to the rainy season. He will resume shortly. With ten men he has already vertically photographed from the air over 3,700 square miles, and obliquely photographed over 12,000 square miles. Visual reconnaissance over 40,000 square miles of hitherto unmapped or incorrectly mapped country has also been made. Difficulties arose during the dry season, from August to October, owing to gigantic bush fires, the smoke of which became like a London fog, rising to over 12,000 ft., and thus rendering observation impossible.

U.S. Airship's Long Cruise

THE U.S. Naval airship, Los Angeles, started from Lakehurst, New Jersey, on February 26, on a cruise to Cuba, and, if weather permitted, for the Panama Canal Zone. The following day a wireless message from her gave her position as three miles off South Negril Point, Jamaica. This indicated that the voyage to the Canal Zone was being carried out. It was completed at 10.40 p.m. on February 27, the whole distance of 2,265 miles being flown non-stop in 40 hours. On February 28, the airship left for Cuba, and was expected to moor for the night on the naval tender, "Patoka," then return to Lakehurst on February 29.

Air Liner for Afghan King

THE King and Queen of Afghanistan visited the Berlin Aerodrome on February 23, and the King was particularly pleased to hear that Lufthansa hoped, in the future, to extend its Berlin-Moscow air route to Afghanistan. Following the inspection and a German flying display, the Royal guests were presented with a three-engined Junkers passenger aeroplane, by the German Government.

French Atlantic Flight

THE French Ministry of Marine is organising a Transatlantic flight to take place in the Spring. Lieut. Sala, of the Cherbourg naval aerodrome, will be in charge of the venture, and he has already left for the Azores to make the necessary preparations.

Another England to Australia Flight

A MESSAGE from Batavia reports that Wing-Commander Manning is planning a private flight from England to Australia. He proposes to start at the beginning of March.

Long Distance Flight Attempt

CAPT. W. R. HINCHLIFFE, the former Imperial Airways pilot, is now at Cranwell preparing for a non-stop flight to India in a Stinson-Detroit monoplaner fitted with a Wright "Whirlwind" engine. He made a test flight with a three-quarter load on February 25, and had to descend owing to fog.

Copenhagen-London in Six Hours

A FOKKER-JUPITER air liner belonging to the Royal Dutch Air Lines flew from Copenhagen to London in six hours on February 27. It had been chartered by Mr. Van Lear Black for a business trip from London to Copenhagen and back.

Hong Kong Aerodrome

A REPORT from Hong Kong states that His Majesty's Government has allocated £100,000 from Imperial Funds towards the cost of the Hong Kong Aerodrome, of which £70,000 will be payable, if possible, this year, and the balance on the satisfactory completion of the work.

African Air Developments

AFRICAN AIRWAYS, LTD., is now being formed, and will start in June an air service between the Rand and Durban. A Government subsidy of £8,000 per year has been granted them. The fleet will consist of three large machines, each seating eight passengers, and three D.H. "Moths." The

service will take three hours to bridge, and it is possible that it will be extended to Cape Town later.

Australian Air Development

MACHINES seating eight passengers will soon operate on a new air line in South Australia, linking Adelaide and Melbourne in four hours. A company has been formed for this purpose.

Australian Aircraft Carrier

THE first aircraft carrier to be constructed for the Royal Australian Navy, H.M.A.S. "Albatross," was successfully launched on February 23, at Sydney. It is a vessel of 6,000 tons and reported to be a reduced copy of the "Hermes." The ceremony was performed by Lady Stonehaven, wife of the Governor-General.

R.A.F. in Action

THE R.A.F. is still taking an active and effective part in the operations in Iraq. On February 26, an oasis in the Nejd desert was bombed. In the House of Commons, Mr. Amery, summarising the results of the recent frontier raids said that the Government was satisfied with the efficiency of the Air Force in dealing with such incursions.

S. Atlantic Air Mail

THE postal air service between Paris and South America was due to commence on March 1. Seaplanes will carry the mails from Paris to Dakar via Casablanca. Then the mails will cross the ocean to the island of Fernando Noronha with a stop at Cape Verde Islands. From the former islands small fast vessels will take them to the mainland. At first the mails will take ten days to reach Buenos Aires from Paris, which is half the time taken on the ordinary route.

Still Missing

WE reported in our last issue, that a machine flying for the Hudson Bay Expedition, with a crew of three on board landed on the ice after losing its position, on February 17. A diligent search has been completed by aeroplanes, and dog teams, but without result. Little hope is now held of the survival of the crew.

The Ford "Flivver" Test

IT is feared now, that the Ford test pilot, Mr. Harry Brooks, was drowned in the sea off Melbourne, Florida, on February 25, when his machine, the new Ford "Flivver" on which he had been doing a long-distance test flight, plunged into the sea. After the crash the machine was seen to rise to the surface, and the pilot waved his coat. Unfortunately, owing to the high waves, fishermen were unable to save him. When they reached the spot, nothing was to be seen. Later the machine was washed up on the beach near Sebastian, but nothing more has been heard of the pilot.

Looping the Loop Craze

NOT to be beaten by the Americans, the French pilot, M. Fronval, looped 1,111 times in 4 hrs. 56 mins., on February 25, at Villacoublay.

Yugoslav Air Line

THE first Yugoslav air line for passengers was recently opened. It links Belgrade and Zagreb and uses five-seater Potez machines.

London-Paris Record

ALL air records in the commercial class between London and Paris were beaten on February 17, when a Handley-Page (Jupiter) machine on the Imperial Airways service flew the 230 miles in 80 mins.

Twenty Years Ago!

Extract from "The Auto" (Precursor of "Flight"), Feb. 29, 1908.

"German Army Airship Test.—At the founders' meeting of the Hamburg Airship Club . . . an announcement was made respecting a test which the German War Office have framed as a means of demonstrating the usefulness of an airship. In order to pass through an official trial, an airship must be capable of ascending to a height of 2,700 ft., of manœuvring for an hour, of descending to the ground, and then of rising and repeating the manœuvre without discharging ballast or gas."