

## BRABAZON RUNWAYS

THAT the Bristol Brabazon will be inoperable from any runway which falls below Filton standards in length, width and strength is, say the makers of the aircraft, an erroneous impression which has primarily arisen from the fact that the machine has been inseparably linked with the concurrent construction of the specially reinforced 1½-mile runway at Filton.

They point out that the Brabazon Mark II, the first aircraft of its class scheduled for airline service, will have two main undercarriage groups of multi-wheel bogies which will considerably reduce the severity of load effect on runways, and it has been found from a preliminary survey of airfields that the aircraft will be able to operate to and from many existing runways. Of 23 airfields on the North Atlantic and Empire routes only nine are believed to be below the required standard, and of these five are scheduled for improvement to Brabazon standards within the next few years. Among airfields which can be used are Filton, London, Schiphol (Amsterdam), Idlewild (New York), Orly (Paris), Shannon, and Washington. Tests are still being undertaken at Prestwick, Keflavik (Iceland) Tengah (Singapore) and Sydney. As information on other airfields becomes available the list will probably be extended considerably. The Brabazon may thus encompass, virtually, all major air routes in the world.

## AMERICAN AVIATION SUBSIDY

THE United States Government has allocated £75,000,000 for subsidising the airline industry during the current financial year. This amount includes £25,000,000 for operating airmail services, whilst general air operations and the development of navigational aids and airports are covered by the balance.

This proposed subsidy is larger than ever before but the Government is of the opinion that the assistance required will gradually decline in the future. It is also considered that large sums spent on the development of airfields is of definite military value. The Board of the Budget responsible for this allocation takes the optimistic view that airlines will eventually bear a large part of their operating costs themselves but

has made the observation that such subsidies should not be considered as gifts to benefit airlines only.

It has been stated that as the industry and the supporting activities of the Federal Government increase so it will become increasingly important to have a basis on which all the interested parties may appraise the cost in relation to the benefits received. At the present time this is said to be difficult because a major part of the airline subsidy is "buried" in mail payment to the operators. It has been suggested that the subsidy should be separated as payment for the carriage of mail, and as straight subsidy. Such separation would avoid the rather meaningless presentation of the American subsidy as it is at the moment and would end the false impression of postal expenditure which now results from the inclusion of the non-postal element in air-mail costs.

## SANTA CRUZ TO BE DEVELOPED

THE Indian Government has announced that plans for the development of the Santa Cruz Airport, Bombay, have been prepared as part of a ten-year development programme costing £33,000,000. The airport will be equipped with efficient night-flying aids, including a modernized flare-path lighting system and a radio-range station. When the airport was built seven years ago it handled six services a day. Traffic at the airport increased after Karachi was partitioned to Pakistan until now 40 daily internal and foreign services operate through the airport. When fully developed, the airport will, it is hoped, be capable of handling aircraft of up to 200,000 lb.

## CONSTELLATION PURCHASES

THE Government of South Africa has announced the purchase of four of the newest type of Lockheed Constellation 749 aircraft for use by South African Airways. The reason is said to be the desire to speed-up services between South Africa and the U.K. In March this year six additional Constellations were purchased by Air France and four by K.L.M. Two more were recently bought by Air-India International. These orders, together with additional aircraft for Eastern Air Lines, the U.S. domestic operator, bring the total sales of this type of aircraft to commercial airlines in the past eleven months to 23. Post-war sales, claim Lockheed, now total 179.

## BREVITIES

THE new B.O.A.C. flying-boat base at Augusta, Sicily, is to be opened to-day, May 19th. The British Ambassador to Italy, Sir Victor Mallet, will attend the opening ceremony.

North-West Airlines, a U.S. domestic operator, will be the first to buy Stratocruisers for use on an internal route; the aircraft will be put into operation on the service between Chicago, Minneapolis and St. Paul during the summer. Ten are on order and delivery of the first is expected this month.

Czechoslovakian Air Lines have suspended services to Israel as a result of the Greek Government's cancellation of permits for Czech aircraft to land or to fly over Greek territory. No air agreement exists between the two countries and Czech aircraft have to obtain permission for each landing in Greece.

The twenty-ninth anniversary of the first K.L.M. flight—between London and Amsterdam in a converted de Havilland aircraft with two open cockpits—were marked by the official opening on May 17th of the new station buildings at Schiphol Airport. On May 29th K.L.M. will open a new route from Amsterdam to Curaçao, through Glasgow, Newfoundland, Canada, and Cuba.

Mr. G. S. Lindgren, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Civil Aviation, introduced the Airways Corporations Bill in the House of Commons on April 17th. The bill is "to provide for the merger of the British South American Airways Corporation with the British Overseas Airways Corporation; to authorize the appointment of an additional Deputy Chairman of the British Overseas Airways Corporation; and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid."

A large number of agricultural shows is being held in various parts of the country, and Mr. N. C. Stoneham, of Stoneham and Kirk, 50, Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C.1 (technical and agricultural advertising consultants) has been investigating the demand by farmers for personal air transport to these events. He states that they have shown considerable interest, and he has also obtained details of some forty shows with

nearby landing facilities. Mr. Stoneham now seeks the co-operation of charter operators willing to pick up parties of from two to six farmers at the nearest convenient landing-grounds to their farms.

Capt. J. T. Percy has been appointed officer-in-charge of training for B.O.A.C. Atlantic crews at Filton, Bristol. He will be responsible for training the former Return Ferry Service Liberator crews for the Constellations and, in a few months' time, the crews for the Boeing Stratocruisers.

The Swissair service to Cairo and Basra now operates once a week from Geneva as well as from Zurich. Calls are made at both Cointin (Geneva) and Kloten (Zurich) on the outward and inward journeys, instead of alternatively at the two airports. This is also the case with the New York service inaugurated on April 29th.

On May 6th Canadian Pacific Airlines took delivery of the first of four Canadair Fours—two months ahead of schedule. These aircraft are for use on the new trans-Pacific services to Australia, and the Far East, which will be inaugurated on July 13th from Vancouver and July 22nd from Sydney. The route will be San Francisco, Honolulu, Canton Island and Fiji, with connecting services between New Zealand and Fiji. Flying will be done only during daylight hours, night and sight-seeing breaks being made at Honolulu and Fiji.

From to-day, May 19th, Air France's twice weekly Paris-Lisbon service, which has been stopping at Bordeaux, will be flown non-stop on the outward trip; the service will leave on Thursdays and the return trip on Sundays. The Saturday outward and Friday return flights will continue to call at Bordeaux. By Languedoc aircraft, the non-stop flight takes five hours ten minutes. On May 31st a new Languedoc service is to be opened between Paris, Basle and Vienna, taking five and a quarter hours, and on June 1st a stop at Milan will be introduced on the Paris-Rome Constellation service.

Four captains and two radio officers flying with B.S.A.A. have recently completed a million miles of flying. They are