

AIRPLANE

When dawn hits Merry England tomorrow morning, there will be a roar of motors and a whirl of propellers. The greatest race in the history of aviation will be under way - the tremendous England-to-Australia speed dash, for twelve thousand miles and seventy-five thousand dollars in prizes. Flying from London to Australia has been the most popular long distance sky stunt for the past fifteen years. The first one was staged in nineteen nineteen, and was a veritable epoch of thrills.

I happened to be around the British Empire a good deal in those days, and saw quite a bit of those England-to-Australia flights. In fact had something to do with two of them. I had flown in Palestine with Captain Ross Smith who, with his brother Keith, took the first prize of fifty thousand dollars. Ross Smith was knighted by the King for turning the trick, and all over Australia babies were named after him. He had to make the jaunt in thirty days to qualify for the prize, and just barely crept under the wire. Today Anthony Fokker, the famous Dutch airplane designer, says that the winner of the race that begins tomorrow will probably do it in sixty hours!

But tomorrow's race will hardly be crammed with the thrills of that first one fifteen years ago, with the earlier but entirely thrilling aircraft equipment of that period. I remember how one friend of mine was piled up in the sensational crash on the island of Crete - Captain George Hubert Wilkins, now Sir Hubert, the polar explorer. And then there were two others whom I recall vividly, Raymond Parer, a little Aussie, about the size of a jockey, timid and shy. He took with him a hair-brained Scot named MacIntosh, who had never flown before. Mac earned his passage by getting Dewar, the great Glasgow distiller, to put up the pounds, shillings and pence necessary to buy a second-hand, discarded army plane. In return they were to carry a quart of Dewar's Scotch in the plane and present it to the Prime Minister of Australia when they got there - if ever.

But they did. They smashed everything else but saved the bottle of whiskey. They didn't have a chance to win a prize - yet their flight was the classic of all. They cracked up in almost every country along the route. They had a forced landing in the Arabian desert and fought off the Bedouin. They ran out

of money in India and had to do all sorts of crazy stunts to get some rupees to carry them a few thousand miles farther.

They cracked up on an island in the remote Salween River, north of Moulmein, renowned for Kipling's pagoda, "On the Road to Mandalay." Their plane seemed hopelessly demolished there amid the jungles of Burma. But they fixed it up with jungle wood and old wire. Over Timor Sea, on their way to Australia, their plane caught afire, but Parer did a clever, wild side slip that somehow blew out the flames, an old war trick. And on they went.

As I remember, it took them over five months to finish the jaunt, till finally, before a cheering crowd of a hundred thousand, at Melbourne, they opened the hood of their plane and carefully took out that precious bottle of Scotch, and presented it to His Excellency, Prime Minister Hughes, of the Commonwealth of Australia.

AVIATION

In Washington a call was sounded for action to stabilize and coordinate the ^{American} air transport industry. "Take aviation out of politics" - was the slogan sounded by Captain Thomas B. Doe, Vice-President of the Sperry Corporation and former President of Eastern Air Transport. He was testifying before the Federal Aviation Commission.

Captain Doe advised that a permanent government aviation commission should be established, so that the industry might be kept clear of ^{entanglements.} ~~political jealousies~~ ~~politics~~ And he urged the ~~exist~~ establishment of a federal airport in Washington similar to the great government airports abroad at Croydon, LeBourget and Tempelhof. ~~and~~ He completed his testimony by stating that air transport could become self supporting in a few very few years, with an airmail rate of five cents a letter, three cents for a lettergram, and two cents for a postal card.

VETERANS

Altho President Roosevelt was talking to an audience at Roanoke, Virginia today, ~~but~~ really his message was aimed at Miami, Florida, at the American Legion Convention which will assemble on Sunday.

At Roanoke the President was presiding at the dedication of a new veterans' hospital, and he asked veterans all over the country to withhold their drive for cash payment of the Bonus. The Government must first take care of the disabled, the sick and the destitute, he explained. He added *that* the veterans are better off today than the average citizen.

Yes, that ^{was} aimed at the American Legion Convention, where there is expected to be quite a bit of agitation for immediate payment of the Bonus.

POLL

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The Digest's straw vote is a supplement following after their big New Deal poll last spring. That first avalanche of ballots in the spring gave President Roosevelt and his policies a powerful majority, more than sixty percent of the total. They have been having a series of these check and double checks. One in August diminished the majority for the New Deal. And now comes a third with the New Deal majority a mere shadow - only a little over 56 percent.

Then there is the newspaper poll, taken among the editors and publishers of the country, seventeen hundred and thirty-three of them, and once more the New Deal gets a slight majority. The Democratic papers show a large majority "for" -- although they are not unanimous. Neither are the Republican papers unanimous, although they show an equally heavy majority "against." The independent papers give a slight bulge for the New Deal.

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GOLD

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The move originates in Belgium, where the financial situation is rather bad. Belgium is sticking to gold. They say she promised to keep in line with France, the principal gold country, in return for which France would throw various business advantages her way.

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However, before the invitation to join ~~x~~ was sent, John Bull refused, no doubt suspecting it was a move to get him to return to gold. "We're ~~asking~~ going to keep the pound sterling independent", declared John.

Britain wants to keep her currency flexible so as to be able to meet any change in the value of the dollar on the part of the United States.

IRELAND

There are parts of Ireland which look as if they have been devastated by a Far Eastern typhoon - the roads littered with fallen trees and fallen telegraph wires. Even the railroad tracks have been torn up in places. The devastation along the roads is centered principally in the counties of Waterford and Kilkenny , the land of the Kilkenny cat.

The trouble is over those Irish land taxes. Some of the farmers can't pay - some can but won't. The government's procedure is to seize their cattle, to be sold at public auction for the tax money.

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In return the government is putting farmers in jail, ~~and~~ an average of forty a day.

GERMANY

Germany's foreign trade is generally on the down grade, ^{that} ~~as it~~ is with most countries. There is one single exception -- Palestine. Palestine, the homeland of the Zionist Jews is buying more and more goods from Hitler's anti-Semitic Germany.

This has been apparent for some time and has evoked all sorts of astonished comment. But now an explanation comes along. Many Jews have left Nazi Germany for Palestine, and their property has been seized by the Nazis. And there's only one way by which they can recover even a small part of their confiscated possessions -- that is by persuading the Palestinian Jews to buy German goods. So these Jewish Zionist exiles ^{have become} ~~are turned into~~ travelling salesmen for the Nazis.

It's all according to plan. The emigrating Jews are given accounts in the Reichsbank for the amount of their goods that were seized, and they can draw against their accounts only by showing receipts for German goods sold in Palestine.

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~~and~~ Armistice Day is three weeks hence -- and today comes the
news of the death of Field-Marshal Alexander Von Kluck.

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HURRICANE

It's bad enough that they had a typhoon in the Philippine Islands a few days ago - but now they're waiting for another one. A big one is coming from that spawning ground of typhoons - the China Sea, and they're waiting for it to strike. The fury of the wind last weekend took seventy-five lives and caused three million dollars worth of damage. So the government of the islands is active and on the job to ease the terror of the expected howl from the China Sea. Food supplies are being stored at threatened points, and Governor ^{General} ~~John~~ Frank Murphy, former Mayor of Detroit, has radioed the American Red Cross at Tokyo to be ready to send swift aid if the wild wind should come.

KIDNAP

Reports still keep popping of a hot trail in the Stoll kidnapping case. Robinson, the abductor, seems to be in a wild flight from one city of the Middle West to another. The clues indicate the frantic haste of the fear-haunted fugitive -- helter skelter here and there, doubling his tracks, turning off at tangents. Government agents are picking up the trail at a rapid rate, a trail studded by bits of ransom money turning up here and there, bank notes, the serial numbers of which are on record.

Reports from Chicago persist that gangsters may catch Robinson before the police do. The underworld, they say, is agog with the information that the fugitive has most of the fifty thousand dollars ransom money on him and the racketeers are out to get him, get the money. This sinister underworld angle is serious enough to be set forth officially by the Chicago police.

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when he talks he says nothing. All along his family with desperate insistence refuse to give any information -- even to the police. And now he has returned the kidnapped man insists that no ransom was paid for his release, which leaves the case quite mystifying -- wreathed in silence.

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LUNCHEON

In New York homage to the gastronomic art was paid at a four hour luncheon given to one of the great French epicures, Monsieur Dumaine, proprietor of a renowned hostelry in the old country of Burgandy, where the wine comes from. It was given by Monsieur Orteig, proprietor of New York's Hotel Lafayette, who is a great figure in Franco-American culinary relations, also aeronautical relations. It was he who donated the historic trans-Atlantic prize which Lindbergh won when he made his first great cross-ocean flight.

To do honor to the great Burgundian epicure was assembled the elite, the creme de la creme of New York's connoisseurs of food and wine - headed by that master connoisseur, Oscar of the Waldorf. *most famous of them all -*

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My own epicurean tastes run to corned beef and cabbage and ham and beans, but I observe ~~that~~ with awe and admiration that the gastronomic ceremony included such ecstatic delicacies as plovers eggs, crawfish, and a sauce compounded of the souls of lobsters - meaning the inwards of lobsters. And then there was beautiful *"The Pillow of"* dawn's pillow, a dish of partridges and woodcocks. And the ecstasy was made complete by an Armagnac brandy, bottled in sixteen sixty-five, when New York was only ten years old.

MENTALITY

It seems that boys are smarter than girls - in the mentality tests. College freshmen commonly have their brain power measured, and at the University of Chicago they've been making the tests to discover who showed up the best - male or female - the freshmen or the fresh girls. Among the first ten highest on the list there wasn't a single girl, fresh or otherwise. All ten of the top rankers are men.

Well, maybe the girls are smart enough to figure that those mentality tests are not so important as an arched eyebrow or a low sweet voice.

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I observe ~~that~~ also that Robert is a bright boy. Robert who? Why four different kinds of Robert. Of the ten at the top of the mentality list, four were named Robert, two were named Frank. None were named Jimmy. And as far as I can find out, none of them were named either Lowell or Thomas - which leaves me where I was before at the foot of the class and,

SO LONG UNTIL MONDAY.