

## IDEAL AVIATION CONDITIONS IN AUSTRALIA ARE STRESSED

Major de Haviland Points to What He Says Are Great Possibilities for Establishment of Commercial Lines in That Country.

Perth, W. Aus.—Major de Haviland has just arrived in Australia to exploit the possibilities of commercial aviation which, he says, are probably more attractive from a flying point of view than in any other country in the world. This continent offers ideal conditions, and is on the eve of great developments in the air.

Major de Haviland is using a Moth plane in a series of flights around Australia to demonstrate, not only the safety of aviation, but the scope for cutting down the immense distances between the various capitals. The spaciousness of the Commonwealth, in his opinion, provides limitless opportunities for the development of commercial flying and, from a technical point of view, a Perth-Adelaide route would be almost ideal because of the nature of the country.

At Argonauts' Club Major de Haviland's first port of call in his Australian tour is Perth where he addressed the Argonauts' Club and made very optimistic statements about the whole future of flying in England, whence he had come, Australia, where he will spend some months in a thorough investigation of the position; in fact, the world over enormous advances were about to be made.

Major de Haviland asserted that western Australia had the finest commercial air service in the world. The institution of light airplane clubs in England and in the eastern states of Australia was doing much to develop civil aviation.

He said he had traveled from England with the chairman of the Australian migration and development commission (Mr. Gepp), who had expressed the hope that an air route would be established to Canberra, and other parts of Australia, so that legislators could get back home every evening.

Answering questions, Major de Haviland said that any person who could solve the problem of vertical ascent make a fortune; he could not see that vertical flight was a possibility for commercial aviation. He did not consider, either, that automatic stabilizers were much good, as most airplanes

were inherently stable and would fly in the air without a pilot doing anything at all.

The aviator was asked whether in the town planning of the next 25 or 30 years provision should be made to meet the development of flying by furnishing open spaces and flat roofs. Major de Haviland replied that in England the Civil Aviation Department had asked municipalities to do their utmost to provide landing grounds as near to towns as possible. Quite a number of people in England now spend the weekend in flying to pleasure resorts and industrial centers.

Between Perth and Caves Western Australia led the way in aviation in Australia by the establishment some years ago of the wonderful service from Perth up the far north coast to Broome, Derby and beyond. It is hoped eventually to link up Darwin. The latest air enterprise is a daily service between Perth and the famous caves in the southwest of the State. Overseas visitors arriving by mail steamer have not been able to spare the time to inspect these beautiful formations, and Western Australian Airways, Ltd., went into the matter.

The first difficulty was a suitable landing ground as the nature of the country in the vicinity of the caves is extremely hilly and closely wooded. The difficulty was overcome through the generous cooperation of Aubrey House, who placed a portion of his fine estate at the disposal of the company. This insures a perfect land in all winds and weathers, and there is a delightful drive through forest country to the caves.

The establishment of the air service to the caves means one-sixth of the time at present occupied by train and motor car. Altogether the passenger is treated to nearly one and one-half hours of restful traveling. By using the air route business men and travelers are able to enjoy altogether three and one-half hours' travel under ideal conditions, and five or six hours' enjoyable stay at the caves in one day. This is the newest, and, so far, the most novel air enterprise in Australia.

## INTREPID WOMAN NOW REWARDED

"The Woman Who Hid the Englishman" One of France's War Heroines.

REPAID AFTER MANY YEARS.

For four tense and heart-breaking years, during which the German occupation lasted, a French woman successfully concealed an English soldier in a cupboard in her house, although German musketeers were billeted with her practically all of the time. She has recently been made a Dame of the Order of the British Empire for her heroic act, which required not only courage, but consummate coolness, presence of mind and finesse which the greatest actress might well envy. In a dispatch to the New York Evening World, Pierre Van Passen tells us that Mme. Belmont-Gobert, whom hundreds of British visit yearly, is known in her native village of Bertry as "Le femme qui cachait l'Anglais" (the woman who hid the Englishman), and she earned her title when she discovered Patrick Fowler, a wounded soldier, in the woods. She cared for him till he recovered, "but he had to remain cached in order to escape capture," and the account continues:

Fowler hid from January 15, 1915, till October 10, 1918, and crept out of his hiding-place only when the Germans evacuated Bertry.

Incredible as it may seem, Fowler spent most of his time during three years and nine months in a section of a cupboard, and still more incredible, he was there at times when unsuspecting Germans were actually sitting around the fire in the same room. Over twenty of them were billeted in the upper part of the house, but often they came down to the ground-floor quarters of the Belmont family and made coffee on the fire there.

The dark oak armoire is about five and one-half feet high, the same length and, perhaps, twenty inches wide. It is divided into two sections; the right section has several shelves, while the left section, intended for hanging clothes, does not contain any shelves. It was in this latter compartment that Fowler hid during the daytime. At nights when all was quiet he came out of his uncomfortable cachette, but there were many nights when he was compelled to stay in. The terrible anxiety of the hidden soldier, when the Germans made their periodic searches for food, hidden franc-tireurs, etc., may well be imagined.

The widow thinks that suspicion was diverted from the wardrobe by the fact that she always kept the door of the right section slightly open. Often, when German soldiers were in the room, she would open it even wider and, ostentatiously, take corvettes or other articles off the shelves. The door of the other half was kept closed, of

course, Madame, who now guides around visitors in her house, has a particular pride in showing a semi-circular hole which she cut in the near side of the partition. This gave the huddled-up occupant a chance to breathe, though it must have been out of the question to "breathe freely." Sometimes food was passed through this hole to the starving man, when enemy soldiers occupied the room day after day.

There were some critical moments. Once a German Major, screwing the monocle in his eye, advanced upon the cupboard with the obvious intention of looking into the closed section. Madame Belmont started to shake and tremble, but soon recovered her wits. She, also, stepped forward, and brushing past the Major, snatched a silver-framed photograph from the top of the cupboard.

"I can not spare this," she exclaimed, making believe that she thought the officer wanted to take the photo. "It is my only daughter." The officer, who had not even noticed the photo, at once reassured her that he had no intention of taking the picture. Madame acted as if she were very much relieved at those words, but in reality she heaved a sigh of relief at having diverted attention from the closet door.

The curious part of the story is that nearly the whole village knew of the hidden soldier, and even knew his exact hiding-place, and that nobody gave the secret away to the occupational authorities, though a prize was offered in the early days of the war to any one showing the whereabouts of a hidden enemy soldier.

Up to a few weeks ago, continues the correspondent, Madame Belmont eked out a miserable existence, ill and always short of food. Happily, however, this has been changed completely. As we read on:

Madame Belmont had almost forgotten the British trooper and had her mind occupied with quite different things—for her two sons died in the war and her husband fell in the first battle of the Marne—when the action of the British Government suddenly changed her condition of poverty and destitution.

She was first notified that she was entitled to four francs a day allowance for all the days of the four years that she had fed and harbored a British soldier.

Then she received a visit of the Colonel of the Tenth British Hussars, Fowler's unit, who came to offer her a handsome silver tablet to be hung on the wall, with the inscription: "In recognition of the constant heroism that Madame Belmont showed during four years of German occupation in hiding in her house Trooper Patrick Fowler. The Colonel, Officers, and Men of the Tenth Hussars."

The money received from the British War Office was swallowed up immediately. For Madame Belmont shared it with a host of neighbors, who each in turn had supplied the food for the British soldier during that long time of hiding.

The officers of the Tenth British Hussars, with Brig-Gen. F. L. Spence



IMAGINE THAT IN ONTARIO. The above visualizes the difficulties in the flooded areas of the States.

at their head, have opened a subscription in London and the first £100 sterling have found their way to the humble cottage in Bertry.

The French Government has also taken notice of Madame Belmont's action, and the Minister of War, M. Painleve, proposes to grant her a pension, and she was decorated with the French order of merit.

Fowler, the Tenth Hussars trooper, who was the man for whom the Bertry villagers and the widow risked their lives, is still in the British Army, none the worse for his harrowing experiences, apparently. The officers of his regiment have planned to send him over to France next spring, when the full results for the subscription for Madame Belmont have become known, and allow him to hand over the money. For that event Bertry plans a gala day, and the band of the near-by town of Le Cateau has been told to hold itself in readiness.

## C. DOYLE'S OPINION ON LONDON MURDER

Originator of Sherlock Holmes Would Employ Spiritualist.

POLICE IGNORANT.

London (U.P.)—Sir Arthur Conan Doyle repudiated his famous detective, Sherlock Holmes, in the midst of the Charing Cross murder mystery. The Charing Cross murder mystery was revealed to the public Thursday with the discovery of the disembodied body of a woman wrapped in brown paper in a trunk which had been checked at Charing Cross station.

Flavor Recognized The Sherlockian flavor of the tale which is now unfolding generally was sensed by the public as Scotland Yard detectives began their search for the "well dressed man" who arrived in a taxi and checked the trunk.

But Holmes and his violin, his magnifying glass, fore-and-aft hat and uncanny perceptions, have been superseded for Sir Arthur by a new kind of detective. In a speech, Sherlock's creator argued the necessity for every police station in the world to have a spiritualistic medium attached to its force. The medium, Sir Arthur said, would solve mysteries.

Police now "are too ignorant" of spiritualism, in the opinion of the teller of detective stories. So long as the law requires the police to prosecute mediums, officers of the law cannot be expected, to ask mediums for assistance.

Christie Mystery Sir Arthur said that he had helped to solve the mystery of the disappearance several months ago of Mrs. Agatha Christie by handing one of Mrs. Christie's gloves to a medium who foretold the actual date upon which Mrs. Christie would be found.

Relatives of missing women to-day besieged the mortuary in an effort to identify the Charing Cross trunk victim. Meanwhile the Yard, true to its traditions as set down in the stories of Sherlock Holmes, scorned outside assistance as it investigated clues.

The small boy in a bus gazed intently at the very fat man who sat opposite him. Why are you staring at me?" demanded the man, annoyed. "Please, sir," replied the boy, "there's nowhere else to look."

## BRITAIN ORGANIZED FOR TOURIST TRAVEL

Every Facility Necessary for the Comfort of Visitors Being Looked After in Advance.

London—An advance indication points to a very heavy volume of world travel this year, especially between North America and the Old World. In Britain every facility necessary for the comfort of visitors is being looked after well in advance and this year's newcomers will find Britain a country well organized to care for tourist travel.

Clean sleeping quarters, good substantial food, and plenty of it, an excellent railroad system, a network of bus lines traversing every part of the country, no taxes designed to hit tourists, and reasonable prices everywhere—these are a few of the legitimate reasons put forward by Britain in inviting the people of the rest of the world to visit them.

On the Continent the illusion still prevails to a very great extent that all overseas visitors are millionaires. This error is not shared by the British. Visitors pay exactly the same for everything they buy as the local residents. There are no highly priced cards of identity, no service charges on hotel bills, no taxes of any sort applying especially to visitors.

The series of articles printed by "The Christian Science Monitor" in an endeavor to induce visitors to Britain to include places off the usual tourist route, has been written with the thought of suggesting places where comfortable and clean accommodation at a moderate price could be secured and from which centers short trips could be undertaken. It is in such short trips that the visitor will come into touch with the real Britain.

There has been a tendency in tourist travel to visit the Continent first, reserving only a few days for Britain before taking ship for home. This is a regrettable practice, and now that the inducements in the way of currency depreciation which made traveling on the Continent comparatively cheap no longer exist there is no excuse for sighting Britain. The wisest travelers will be those who come to Britain first, enjoy the beauties of its early summer, and visit the Continent later.

The visitor who sees London and Stratford-on-Avon and imagines he has seen Britain cheats himself. It is only visit the places where the Anglo-Saxon civilization laid the foundations for the institutions of the entire English-speaking world of to-day who really get their money's worth out of their trip.

## BRITISH LEGATION IN VATICAN STAYS

Sir Austen Chamberlain Refuses Request to Withdraw it.

London—Sir Austen Chamberlain, in the House of Commons emphatically refused to withdraw the British legation from the Vatican as desired by some Laborites.

Sir Austen declared: "At a time of great international trouble the British Government established this legation—to withdraw it now would be almost an offensive act."

"Apart from that, whatever views we may take individually about the Roman Church there can be no doubt that the head of that church represents a great force in the world and is venerated by many millions of His Majesty's subjects. To withdraw the legation would be highly impolite."

The statement was greeted with commendatory cries of "Hear, Hear."

"Canada is first in production of newspaper, asbestos, nickel and salmon; second in the use of the telephone and the production of gold and silver; seventh in the production of steel; tenth in the production of coal—all which indicate that Canada's prosperity is not based on any single line but is a universal prosperity, backed by agriculture." — Extract from London, England, address by Mr. W. T. Noxon, Agent General for Ontario.

## MAY CONFER ON WATER POWERS

Negotiations Between the Dominion and Provinces Deemed Likely.

OTTAWA RIVER POWER.

Settlement of Conflicting Claims Said to Be Prompting Motive.

Ottawa—From official sources it is learned that before long the Dominion Government will endeavor to initiate negotiations with the Governments of Ontario and Quebec looking to a settlement of the vexed question of the Ottawa River water powers and in the hope of reaching an agreement.

The way is pretty well cleared by the refusal of Parliament to renew the charter of the Georgian Bay Canal Company while the conditions under which the National Hydro secured 300,000 horsepower at Carleton have not been fulfilled and, whether or not the company has lost its rights, which is a matter of controversy, it is in a position to go ahead and finance the undertaking.

Dominion's Position The Dominion Government takes the position that while the provinces have rights the Dominion has full authority over navigation and particularly to the power developed from Dominion undertakings.

It is hoped that, as a result of conferences an agreement will be reached, settling definitely the question and permitting the ultimate development of the potential powers on such terms and circumstances as may be agreed to. As matters now stand, the Dominion Government and Ontario and Quebec all claim the powers in question and none shows any disposition to yield. After the Quebec elections are over some negotiations are looked for. The matter of St. Lawrence development, it is intimated, will stand till the arrival of the United States minister, Hon. William Phillips, in the early summer.

## IRISH CRITICISM

Emigration One of the Main Questions of General Election.

Dublin—The Free Staters are engaged in preparation for the forthcoming general election with nine different parties seeking support. Closer Empire relations and the abolition of the declaration of allegiance are the outstanding questions. Ministers are being violently heckled regarding emigration and criticism of Canada as a home for emigrants is heard frequently. The excitement is slowly rising and already there have been several unpleasant incidents.

Wood Buffalo Park, Canada's game preserve near Fort Smith in the Northwest Territories, has an area of 17,000 square miles. It contains over 5,000 buffalo.

Maybe what's wrong with this generation is that too many parents' slippers are being worn out on the dancing floor.

## OTTAWA CONSUL RETIRES JULY 1

J. G. Foster is Succeeded After Thirty Years' Service by I. N. Linnell, Boston.

Washington—Following 30 years in the consular service of the United States, John F. Foster, Consul-General at Ottawa, will retire on July 1, 1927, in accordance with the provisions of Section 18 of the Act of May 24, 1924. He will be succeeded by Irving N. Linnell of the State Department.

Mr. Foster's long acquaintance with Canadian affairs has led American citizens acquainted with his work at Ottawa to call him "unofficial ambassador." His whole career has been in the Dominion capital. Mr. Foster's service spans the period of change in diplomatic relations between the two countries from the time when Canadian affairs were carried on through the British Embassy in Washington to the present day and the recent arrival of Vincent Massey as official Canadian Minister.

Mr. Foster was born at Derby Line, Vt., in 1859, and educated at Tufts College. He was a member of the Vermont House of Representatives in 1892 and went to Halifax as consul general in 1897. He was transferred to Ottawa in 1903. Under the re-organization plan of the American Foreign Service he was appointed a Foreign Service officer of Class 1 in 1924, in announcing his impending retirement, the State Department says:

"Mr. Foster's services in Canada have been of the utmost value to the United States and he has done much to promote and maintain friendly relations with the members of the Canadian Government and persons of prominence in Canadian political life. The department has the highest appreciation of the efficient manner in which Consul-General Foster has performed his duties throughout his entire period of 30 years' service."

Mr. Linnell, Mr. Foster's successor, has for the last four years been in charge of Canadian affairs in the western European division of the State Department. Born in Boston, he went through the Cambridge Latin School and graduated from Harvard in 1904, continuing his course through the Harvard Law School. He has served in various consular posts in Canada and England.

## BRITISH BUDGET

Churchill's Speech Reduced to Simplest Form.

Budget Points from Mr. Churchill's Speech on England's Upkeep Charges.

"We meet under the shadows of the disasters of last year.

"The loss to trade was £150,000,000. "It is time to pay the bill of last year's troubles.

"There is a loss of £412,500,000 in income tax, due to retardation of collection. He hopes to collect this in 1927. "There is a total loss of £32,000,000 in income tax and super tax owing to the general strike and the coal stoppage.

"Decreasing revenue due to the strike £17,500,000.

"Increasing expenditure due to the strike over £14,500,000.

"The industrial disturbance has made it necessary for them to raise more Treasury bills. They are forced to pay nearly £6,000,000 extra because of those more and dearer Treasury bills.

"In spite of the stoppage, the country has kept the even tenor of its way. The exchange has stood like a rock.

"The consuming powers of the masses have been little affected by the trouble.

"Beer and spirits alone reflected to the Exchequer the social and industrial struggle upon which so many millions had been engaged.

"Tea shows only a slight fall in consumption, while tobacco and sugar actually have increased.

"Our financial strength has not yet been impaired. Our fortunes are still in our own hands to make or to mar.

"Revenue, apart from the stoppage, is £1,125,000 below the estimate, but with the stoppage it is £19,000,000 below the estimate.

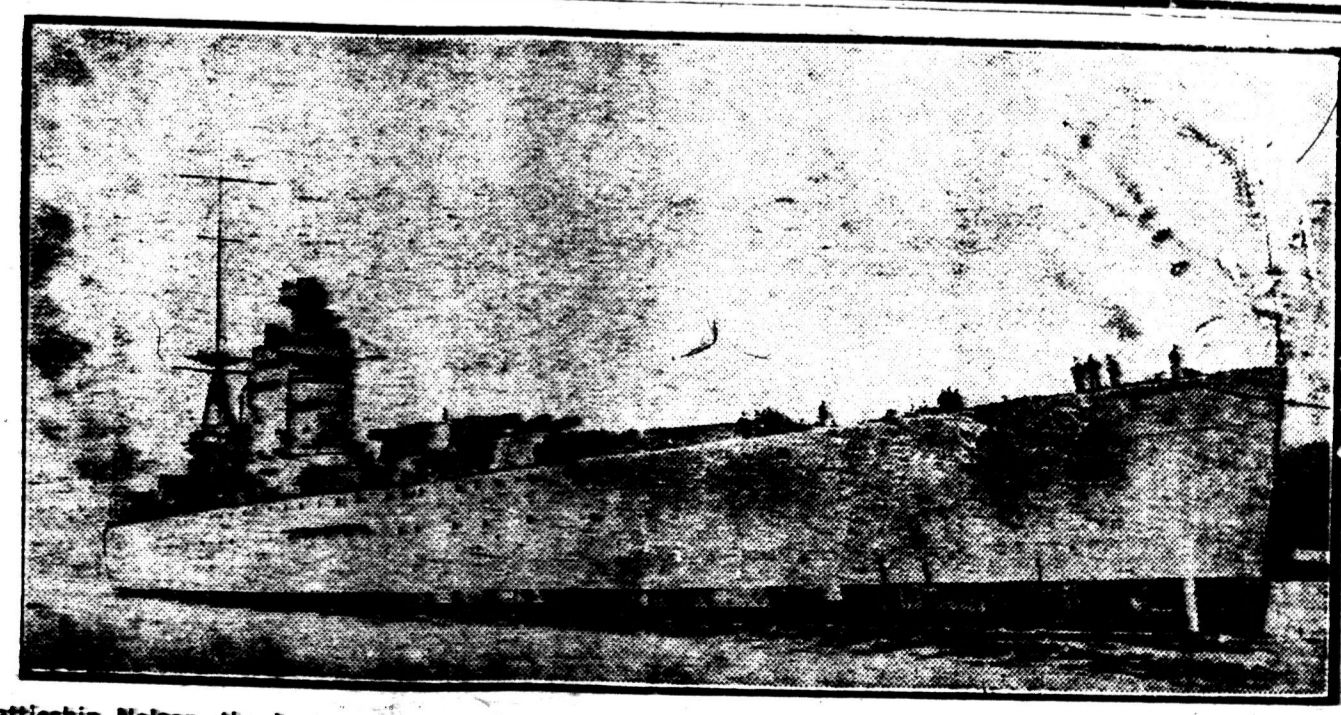
"Estimated total expenditure this year £318,390,000."

## Two Mussolini Boys Join Fascist Party

Rome—The two latest recruits of the Fascist Party are Vittorio and Bruno Mussolini, two sons of the Duce, who were admitted recently to the Infant or Balilla organization. Wearing proudly for the first time their black shirts, the two boys were formally received in the Milanese group of the Balilla section of the Fascist Party in presence of the authorities.

A miniature rifle was given them and both wearing their Fascist uniforms paid an official call at the town hall and the office of their father's newspaper, Popolo d'Italia, where they were warmly welcomed.

London's sewers, which are the best structures of their kind in the world, have a total length of more than 500 miles; the air in them is kept pure by elaborate systems of ventilation.



Battleship Nelson, the huge new naval vessel recently completed at a cost of \$35,000,000, passing down the Tyne.