

U. S. Birdmen Span Pacific First Time; Russians Hostile

Bolsheviki Order World Fliers to Quit Their Coast; Smith Like Homing Pigeon.

Told by LOWELL THOMAS. (Copyright, 1924.)

Historically the next jump that the world fliers were to make was to be the most important single episode of the world flight.

In flying around the world, the American aviators, in addition to being the first to circumnavigate the globe, established a host of other records. But on this one jump, from Attu island, across Bering sea to the peninsula of Kamchatka, the world fliers were accomplishing a feat which in itself would have assured them of a permanent place in history even if they had gone no farther.

Give Russ Wide Berth. When we contemplate the above comparison and stop to consider the importance of this first aerial crossing of the Pacific, which Commander Lowell Smith is to decide for us, we realize the really gigantic proportions of this flight around the whole world in which the crossing of the Pacific was merely one of many episodes.

"We rolled out of our bunks in the traders' house at Chicago about 5 o'clock on the morning of May 15, says Lowell Smith, 'Blair, our meteorologist friend, was with me as we left the Bering sea, off the Komandorski islands, and the coast guard cutter Haida was 50 miles out at sea. They had gone ahead in order to give us full weather reports. I don't know what we would have done without them, because the middle of Bering sea is no place for airplanes to get tangled up with snowstorms.

"We had held a council with our bureau of navigation and coast guard friends several nights before and had decided that we would attempt to fly all the way through to Paramushiro, a distance of about 870 miles, if the weather was clear. But away up here in the north Pacific and in Bering sea it may be perfectly calm and then an hour later you may find yourself in the midst of a terrific storm.

"The nearest land after leaving the Aleutian islands happened to be the Komandorski. But they belong to Russia, and owing to the fact that our government had not recognized the soviet, it had not been possible for any arrangements to be made with the Russians for us to land anywhere in their territory. To do so, theoretically might, therefore, lead to complications. Nevertheless, in view of the fact that the weather up here is so notoriously fickle, it was decided that the Elder would fly off about three miles from Bering land in the Komandorski. Just so that in case of emergency we could at least come down at sea in the shelter of land, fuel from the Elder and then wait for the wind to clear up.

"The hop to Paramushiro in the Bering sea, which belongs to Japan. As things turned out, it was most fortunate that we decided upon this, for soon after we left Attu a great storm cut off the direct route to the Kuriles. At exactly 11:30 on the morning of May 15 we set forth across the open sea to fly to the Pacific. It was Wednesday morning when we left Attu, but when we reached the Komandorski, five hours later, we arrived there to find that it was Thursday afternoon. About midday we passed the 130th meridian, where time advances a whole day. So we made our first night on May 16 and 17.

"At five minutes past midday we were directly above the last bit of American soil that we were to see again until crossing the Atlantic. At 12:20 we flew over the Haida. We circled around her once because we thought that it was going to be our last opportunity of seeing our coast guard friends, who had given us so sparingly of their time and had worked so enthusiastically for us. Bering sea is one of the roughest bodies of water on the face of the globe, and here where it joins the north Pacific is the roughest part. The Haida was rolling from side to side. But as we circled around, almost every man on board seemed to be on his feet, waving to us.

"By now the weather to the southwest in the direction of Paramushiro had suddenly become thick and foggy, while to the north and straight ahead

Balance Between Rail and Water Rates Necessary

Control of Canal Tariffs as Proper as Government Jurisdiction Over Roads' Charges.

ARTICLE III. BY WILL M. MAUPIN.

Does it not appear from the outline already given that instead of crucifying the railroads and at the same time working injury to interior industrial development by forcing an increase of rates, the proper remedy would be to so equalize the rates as between rail carriers and water carriers that a proper balance might be maintained between all sections. What is there so sacred about the Panama canal and canal ocean rates that they may not be touched, even though that policy is fast destroying industry and general business in the interior sections?

If the commerce of the country needs control over rail rates, is it not proper that there should also be control over water rates? The needs of commerce must be considered as a whole, which means that rates as a whole should be controlled. A half control is no control, in fact, worse than no control.

The immediate effect of the adoption of the Gooding amendment will be to control the Interstate Commerce commission from granting the railroads permission to put into effect rates that will enable them to get a reasonable proportion of the transcontinental traffic. This will vastly and immediately increase the tonnage passing through the Panama canal and decrease the tonnage likely to pass over the rails.

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Card of Thanks. WE wish to thank our many friends, neighbors and members of the Eastern Star and Masonic orders for their kind and sympathetic help during the bereavement of our wife, daughter and sister, Mrs. W. J. B. FAY, who died at 10:15 P. M. December 12, 1924. (Signed) BRUCE R. HAYMER, H. A. 1661. BEN A. DENMAN, MAX DENMAN.

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swering the question in a way to cover all that the question contains. As nearly as the answer can be put into a single sentence it is this: Because the cost to the rail carrier of the uninterrupted long haul is less than the cost of the total of the interrupted or broken hauls. Then there is always the other answer—if they do not make a lower rate to compete with the water rate they will not get the business and will lose the revenue.

The experience of almost every city of any considerable size in the matter of light and power rates may be taken as an illustration, because light and power rates come directly home to the individual consumer.

An uninterrupted 24-hour electric service may be furnished cheaper per unit of power consumed than a service of only six hours or of 12 hours. The reason is very simple. By making a lower rate for power industry is stimulated and the power plant enabled to get some return for the expense of maintaining its plant during the day. This day return is reflected in a lowering of a rate that would otherwise be demanded if the plant was working only half time.

It is very thin, but the power of the Interstate commerce commission to take all the facts into consideration and fix rates that enables the interior sections of the country to develop their industries and agricultural resources.

The effect of the Gooding amendment will be to take this power from the commission, and impose upon the interior an unjust burden of freight rates, or practically destroy those industries by depriving the railroads of any possible chance of survival.

That point will be discussed in the next succeeding article.

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