GOVERNOR-GENERAL NEW AIRPORT OPEN

HISTORY OF THE ENTERPRISE

PROVIDING TRANSPORT NEEDS OF FUTURE

FINEST CIVIL FLYING FIELD IN DOMINION ESTABLISHED

MEMORIAL TABLET TO KINGSFORD SMITH AND C. T. P. ULM

TO-MORROW the Governor-General of New Zealand, Viscount Galway, will open officially the New Plymouth airport. The ceremony will mark the completion of one of the most important undertakings in the history of the town, for in years to come the provision of an airport at New Plymouth, of area and quality sufficient to handle any type of land machine, will prove to have been as wise and far-sighted a move as the provision of a harbour. Transport by air is the transport of the future. New Plymouth is now assured that the needs of to-morrow are met.

The undertaking has not been without grave difficulties, nor has it escaped criticism and opposition; but already aviation has advanced sufficiently in New Zealand to indicate that those who, more than eight years ago, claimed a modern airport to be a necessity were justified in their view. Before many years have passed New Plymouth will be a vital link in a chain of internal air services carrying passengers, mail and freight.

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To-day commerce demands speed. To-morrow it will demand more speed. Any community that has failed to make provision for the handling of rapid air traffic will suffer grave handicap.

When the land for the airport site was acquired, it was realised that development would be a long and expensive business. To level, grade and drain almost 170 acres of land and provide on it a surface suitable for the taking-off or landing of any type of aeroplane is an engineering undertaking of magnitude. Seized with the importance of such undertakings the Government was sympathetic and, with the co-operation of the Public Works Department employing local relief workers on a contract system, the work was done at no expense to the town. Moreover, it was well done. It is the considered opinion of experts that to-day New Plymouth possesses a civil aerodrome second to none in the Dominion. The surface is as near perfect as it can be. The lay-out will eventually provide for runways of three-quarters of a mile in every direction—sufficient to meet the requirements of any type of land machine at present designed.

To-morrow's ceremony of noming then is significant as was interest.

To-morrow's ceremony of opening, then, is significant as marking the attainment of a material benefit to the community, but with it is combined a ceremony of even wider appeal. A memorial tablet to the late Sir Charles Kingsford Smith and the late Mr. C. T. P. Ulm will be unveiled by Lord Galway. The names of "Smithy" and Charles Ulm will go down in history with the great adventurers of the age. Together and singly they pioneered the skyways of the world. In the end both gave their lives for the ideal that had impelled them. New Plymouth is proud that it knew these men and grateful that they showed interest in and kindliness towards New Plymouth. Sim modest tablet of memorial is but one among hundreds, but to many, particularly those who have been associated with the New Plymouth airport and the New Plymouth Aero Club, it is of deep and lasting significance.

Combined with these two ceremonies is the North Island official air pageant of 1936. Fifty machines of every type in use in New Zealand will participate in aerial displays. The day is a red letter day in the history of local enterprise and it will be fittingly marked by spectacle.

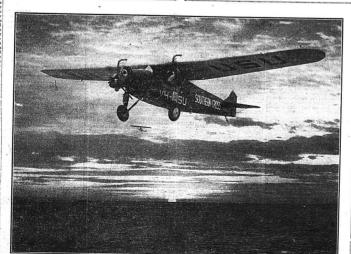
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SCENES AT FIRST LANDING

AIR COMMODORE SIR CHARLES UNCSFORD SMITH AND FLIGHT LEUTENANT CHARLES TO LUM INTREPID PLOMERRO OF THE AUTHORS, WHOSE MANIFOLD ACHIEVEMENT & IN THE AIR JUSTLY EARNED FOR EACH OF THEM AS IMPOSIBLIAGUE FAME, AND IN APPRECIATION OF THE USEF INTEREST, WHIGH THESE AIRMENT CONSISTENTLY DISPLAYED IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW PLYMOUTH AIRPORT. GREAT PIONEERS MARK IN HISTORY

SMITHY" AND C. T. P. ULM

NEW PLYMOUTH INTEREST



THE NEW AGE,—The most famous acroplane in the world, the late Sir Charles Kingdord Smith's "Southern end of a trans-Taunan flight. New Plymouth owes its alreort to the stimulation to public imagination gives Mr. C. T. F. Ulm in their daring and skilful flights over the world's most treatherous strip of ocean.

DRAMATIC MOMENTS

OCEAN FLIGHTS RECALLED

TRANS-TASMAN VENTURES

r-General of New Zealand, Viscount Galway, ficially to-morrow at 2.15 o'clock and unveil a memorial tablet.

orial tablet which His Excellency, the Governor-General, will unveil at New Plymouth airport to morrow to the memory of Australia's great pioneers of the air. till, daring and the organising ability essential to successful flights over after, he repeated the great adventure 1923. With Mr. P. G. Taylor in a okcheed Altair monoplane, Lady

THIS TABLET WAS ERECTED BY THE GITIZENS

OF NEW PLYMOUTH AND DISTRICT,

"At the going down of the sun; And in the morning, we will remember them".

21 ST MARCH 1936.

TO-MORROW'S EVENTS

IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY DISPLAY BY AIRCRAFT