

OUTLOOK

and Independent



➤➤ Trend of the Week ◀◀

➤➤ One of a Thousand

THERE is not much interest in the fact that on November 27 Captain Bert Hinkler, a British aviator, became the first person to cross the Atlantic from South America to Africa by plane. There may be somewhat more interest in the fact that Hinkler is the 130th person to cross the Atlantic, eastwardly or westwardly, by plane, and approximately the thousandth to cross by air. Exactly how many more than one thousand have crossed we do not know, for American newspapers did not even trouble themselves to ascertain how many passengers were carried by the Graf Zeppelin on her last voyage from Germany to Brazil. That is a commentary on the current interest in such flights.

➤➤ Story of a Flop

PROLOGUE

PRESIDENT HOOVER calls a special session of Congress early in 1929, enunciating the principle that "no government agency should engage in the buying and selling and price-fixing of products."

CHAPTER I

On June 15, 1929, President Hoover signs the agricultural relief bill, authorizing the buying, selling and price-fixing of products by the Federal Farm Board, and announces that "we have at last made a constructive start at agricultural relief with the most important measure ever passed by Congress in the aid of a single industry." Wheat sold that day at \$1.41½ a bushel and cotton at 19.10 cents a pound.

CHAPTER II

On November 25, 1931, Chairman Stone of the Farm Board reports to the

Senate's committee on agriculture that \$342,000,000 had been invested in the price-fixing of wheat and cotton and that, as of October 31, 1931, the investment was worth approximately \$165,000,000—i. e., the board had lost \$177,000,000. On October 31 wheat had sold at 61⅞ cents a bushel and cotton at 6.63 cents a pound.

EPILOGUE

On November 25, 1931, wheat sells at 54⅜ cents a bushel and cotton at 6.07 cents a pound, thereby increasing the \$177,000,000 loss as of October 31 by at least \$10,000,000.

➤➤ Charlie Decides

CHARLIE CURTIS will stick—if he can. For weeks he was undecided whether to seek the Republican nomination for Vice-President next year or the Republican nomination for Senator from Kansas, either of which honors he could have had for the asking. On November 30 he made up his mind. "After careful consideration," he said, "I have decided not to be a candidate for the United States Senate from Kansas in 1932, and, furthermore, that if the next Republican National Convention should nominate me for Vice-President in 1932 I shall accept."

Evidently Mr. Curtis has decided that, while the prize in the vice-presidential race is far greater than that in the sena-

torial race, the risk of losing is not. And that, while it is no disgrace for a former-Senator to be defeated for the Vice-Presidency, it is no small disgrace for a former Vice-President to be defeated for the Senate. Republican prospects in Kansas are evidently pretty bleak, even more so than they are in the country as a whole.

In place of further opinions of our own, however, let us reprint the comment of Jay E. House, former mayor of Topeka and now columnist on the *Philadelphia Public Ledger* and the *New York Post*. Mr. House, a Republican, combines uncommon shrewdness with extraordinary knowledge of Kansas and Kansans. "Whatever is said of Mr. Curtis—and much that is good may be said—he knows his Kansas," Mr. House points out. "If he has decided that he cannot carry it as a candidate for Senator, what chance has Mr. Hoover to carry it? And if Mr. Hoover cannot carry Kansas, what can he carry?" Mr. Curtis's decision to run for Vice-President rather than for Senator strikes Mr. House as "more bad news for Mr. Hoover." That's the way it strikes us, too.

➤➤ Congress Convenes

PANACEA CONGRESS—that is the term already applied to the first session of the Seventy-Second Congress convening on December 7. Catchy the name may be, but it will probably prove to be inaccurate. Congress is not likely to approve many panaceas. Most of the important measures which emerge from the Capitol are likely to be compromises. And not so very many important measures are likely to emerge.

Even in the most favorable circumstances, not many Congresses make bril-

