

PUBLISHERS RETURN FROM AIR TRIP TO SOUTH AMERICAN CITIES

Roy Howard Says Relations Are Better and Urges Junking of Monroe Doctrine—Gannett Impressed With Speed of Travel—Brooks Sees Bigger Interchange of News

(Special to EDITOR & PUBLISHER)

MIAMI, Sept. 3.—South American countries which have long been frightened by a "Yankee imperialism" bugaboo, are growing less suspicious of the United States and more friendly, due principally to a wiser foreign policy followed by the national administration.

This, in brief, is the finding of a group of nationally known newspapermen and press association representatives who completed on Thursday, Aug. 30, a 15,000-mile tour of the South American continent aboard Pan-American Airways' 32-passenger, transoceanic type flying boat, Brazilian Clipper. The tour was made as "a mission on behalf of American relations and trade." It was the maiden flight for the big, new transport plane of the airways, largest of its type in the world, which was christened enroute at Rio de Janeiro.

The newsmen made the tour as guests of the airways and Juan T. Trippe, president, who accompanied them. Over all the route, the plane shortened flying time between South American capitals, climaxing the record-breaking flight with a final one-day's flight of 1,840 miles from Port of Spain, Trinidad by way of San Juan, P. R., to Miami.

Roy Howard, chairman of the Scripps-Howard Newspapers, summed up the present international situation and the purpose of the tour, upon his return to Miami, as follows:

"We, as newspapermen, were invited to go down and get first-hand information on conditions in South America. I was particularly eager to accept the opportunity, since I had previously been there—in 1919—when I went there to establish the United Press on the continent, and I wanted to see the changes and to see how aviation development has tied up with the situation.

"I have been in close contact with conditions in South America for more than 20 years. I have been doing business there for that length of time, but never at any time has there been a more favorable attitude for friendly relations. Heretofore the Monroe Doctrine has stood in the way. It has seemed to South Americans that we were a big brother trying to break into their affairs.

"But this attitude is changing. They have seen us getting out of Haiti, clearing out of Nicaragua, establishing amicable relations with Colombia and repealing the Platt amendment. These things have largely helped to change their view of the United States, heretofore regarded as "a highly imperialistic nation." They have been led to believe we were only too anxious to shove our southern boundary line to Tierra del Fuego.

"Since they have seen the policy we have been following, they could not help but see we are not imperialistic, that we were not trying to grab them.

"I talked to many people down there, particularly newspapermen. The general opinion is that no one single thing will go so far toward perfecting an entente as for us to definitely junk our Monroe Doctrine entirely or include all countries on an equal basis, to modernize it and get away from an antiquated policy."

Particularly impressed by the vastness of the southern continent, Frank E. Gannett, chairman of the Gannett Newspapers, said:

"The big thing about the tour, I believe, is the cutting down of flying time, bringing the continents closer together. Now thousands of Americans may go down there, safely and quickly. Relations should become very friendly and profitable to South America and to the United States.

"There were receptions, banquets, dinners and entertainments given for us, something for every minute we were on land. Enormous crowds gathered to greet us. Haiti, Brazil, Uruguayan and Argentinian presidents received us, governors of other countries met us and gave receptions for us in their homes.

"In time, I hope to see great fleets of airplanes connecting the North American continent with every South American city."

A study of South American newspapers, news dissemination and interviews with newspapermen engrossed William F. Brooks, executive assistant to the general manager of the Associated Press.

"Opening of inter-continental travel on a speed basis will make more news between the two continents," he said. "A greater interchange of news will mean more interest between the continents and a better understanding.

"South American newspapers are very similar to North American newspapers, which indicates a similar trend of thought," he said. "South American newspapers now use much North American news. They are interested in us."

Five members of the party left Miami shortly after arrival on an Eastern Air Transport plane, becoming the first men ever to breakfast in Trinidad and have their next breakfast in New York or other northern city. They were Mr. Trippe, Mr. Howard and James H. Furay, vice-president of the United Press, who left for New York; Eugene Vidal, director of air commerce, U. S. department of commerce, who left for Washington, and M. C. Meigs, of the *Chicago American*, who flew to Washington, Cleveland and Chicago.

Other members of the party who followed Friday morning on an Eastern Air Transport plane were Jerome D. Barnum, publisher, *Syracuse Post-Standard* and vice-president, A. N. P. A., Mr. Gannett; Paul Patterson, publisher, *Baltimore Sun*; John Cowles, associate publisher, *Des Moines Register and Tribune*, James G. Stahlman, *Nashville Banner*.

Amon G. Carter, publisher, *Fort Worth (Tex.) Star-Telegram*, and Edgar M. Swasey, vice-president, *American Weekly*, returned from the tour by the west coast of South America, through Panama and Mexico to Texas and Los Angeles.

Others in the party who stopped in Miami were Mr. Brooks, H. V. Jenkins, publisher, *Savannah (Ga.) News and Press*, and J. N. Wheeler, general manager, North American Newspaper Alliance.



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