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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

Department Editor.....FRANK E. QUINDRY

ECONOMICS OF AIR TRANSPORT IN EUROPE. Report submitted by M. Henri Bouché to the Special Sub-Committee of the Air Transport Cooperation Committee of the League of Nations. (Ser. L. o. N. P. VIII Transit, 1935. VIII. 1). Pp. 73.

This is a report submitted to the Sub-Committee of the Air Transport Co-operative Committee of the League of Nations Organization for Communications and Transit, and includes several valuable maps and charts. It is a technical survey and study of European air transportation systems and the problems confronting their development. It is divided into two parts, one covering the period from 1930 to 1933 and the second covering the year 1933. The second part is brief and indicates no general changes from the situation as it was considered in the first part.

The following statement indicates the superiority of airline transportation in this country over that in Europe.

The general results obtained by the contractual air services in the territorial area under consideration therefore appear to be mediocre, whether from an absolute standpoint or in comparison with the results already obtained by American air transport undertakings across United States territory. (Page 31.)

The reporter also says:

Altogether, we have a system which, if account is taken of its seasonal character, is far more in the nature of propaganda than of economic utility or the fulfillment of permanent needs. Apart from the Paris-London line, this remark holds good—with a few modifications—in the case of the European system as a whole. (Page 47.)

The following statement is noteworthy as showing that aside from the many physical and economic difficulties, the development of European Air transportation is confronted with an extremely serious political problem:

Suppose that the technical progress of tomorrow enabled air transport to be financially independent, how could the Governments of a divided and mistrustful Europe allow the indefinite development of a powerful means of transport when aircraft sent on peaceful missions over national territories and to the very heart of those territories may also carry out other missions? (Page 63.)

FRANK E. QUINDRY.

THE AIRCRAFT YEARBOOK FOR 1935. Compiled and Published by the Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce of America, Inc. New York, 1935. Pp. viii, 528.

The 1935 volume is in style and general content quite like its earlier issues—with the customary amount of valuable factual data recording the progress of the various aeronautical activities. Useful summaries of the studies of the Baker Board, the Federal Aviation Commission—together with an excellent, if short, chapter on state and federal regulation—will make this year's volume of particular interest to any one interested in air law.

F. D. F.