

BIG BUSINESS BACKS AVIATION TO THE LIMIT

Hard-Headed Financiers to Invest Millions in New Field.

BY ALFRED P. RECK.
United Press Staff Correspondent.
WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—This year in aviation will see a tightening of one of the strangest unions in history—big business and aerial pioneering.

Regardless of spectacular flights planned, or proposed record-breaking attempts, the outstanding development in aeronautics during 1929 will be the fact that aviation, as a money-making field, is recognized by organized capital.

Four important aviation mergers, involving millions of dollars and bearing the hallmark of Wall Street, have been consummated within a few months, giving a forecast of the important, if not dominating, part dollars will play in the future of commercial aviation. Other mergers are in the making.

Fokker in Merger

Prominent among these combinations are the \$10,000,000 merger of the Fokker interests and the Western Air Express; the combination of the Trans-Continental Air Transport, headed by C. M. Keyes, the Curtiss corporations and the Sikorsky Airplane plant; the merger of Keystone Aircraft Corporation and the Loening Aircraft Engineering Corporation; and the merger of the Pratt & Whitney Engine Corporation with the Boeing Airplane Manufacturing Company of Seattle, and the Niles, Bement, Pond interests of Hartford, Conn.

These mergers, backed by millions of dollars, will be devoted mainly to production of large multi-motored planes and necessarily will come into active competition with Stout Metal Airplane Company, backed by the millions of Henry and Edsel Ford.

Thus 1929 will see aeronautical engineering brains, with almost unlimited capital behind it, striving to produce bigger and better airplanes at a reduced cost.

Will Increase Mileage

Airplane corporation stocks already are listed on Wall Street and more probably will find recognition in the stock exchanges during the year.

There are other important developments on the calendar.

The 6,900 miles of improved airways now in active operation will be increased by 4,600 miles in 1929. The 45,000 miles, which were flown daily in 1928, are expected to reach almost 100,000 miles in 1929 and may exceed this number.

Airplane manufacture, which totaled between 10,000 and 15,000 machines last year, is expected to double this year, with many of the larger plants turning out standardized planes by mass production.

RUTH URBAN MAKES A GOOD BARBARA

Luana Alcaniz Deserves Credit for Being a Great Dancer as Well as a Marvelous Beauty, Now at Lyric.

BY WALTER D. HICKMAN

WHEN a show has been in town before, the question that most of us want to know is—Is it as good as last year? We now apply the question to "My Maryland," which opened a week's engagement at English's last night.

My answer to the question is—that in some respects I like it better than last year. It is just as good an entertainment on the whole as last year. I am sure that this company can deliver. I have seen several companies during the history of the life of "My Maryland." I will tell you right now that I consider Madeline McMahon the best of all the Sue Royces that I have seen. She is a cute little thing who never seems to run out of energy and acting as well as singing ability.

She has the services of two men, Juan Puerto and Ector Cortez as well as Betancourt's Marimba orchestra. The services of all of these people is placed before a background of art. Whoever was responsible for staging this act knew his business.

Without any fear of contradiction, I will place this Luana Alcaniz dance offering among the ten best dance offerings I have seen since I have been telling you about the theater, and that has been a bunch of years.

And I might say right now that the Lyric has a corking good show.

The Pearson Brothers are dancers along acrobatic tap lines. They are splendid. Oliver and Lee live up to their title of "The Girl and the Boob."

Mighty good work on the part of the man. Lowe and Dunn Sisters have a mixed offering of song and dance. Well delivered. Their review of popular songs of the year is the real article.

Tobey Wilson and company present "Oh Henry" with Wilson doing his wild old man stuff just as successful as ever before. This man Wilson knows his theater from a laugh standpoint.

The cold weather slowed me up yesterday and I missed the opening. The movie is "The Floating College."

Now at the Lyric.

LOOKING OVER NEW MUTUAL SHOW "Bowery Burlesque," this week's

At English's all week.

PAYING RESPECTS TO A GREAT DANCER

Right at the start let me tell you that the dance offering of Luana Alcaniz is one of great beauty and great talent.

I had the feeling yesterday at the Lyric when the final curtain fell on this act that I should get to my feet and applaud this dancer and her associates.

Rather guess that such things are not being done this season and so I reserve my applause in print. So there can be no misunderstanding if students of the dance want to get an eye and an ear full of what makes up a great dance act, I refer them to Luana Alcaniz.

In the first place this dancer is a marvelously beautiful woman and she backs up this quality with mas-

terful dancing ability as well as a pleasing singing voice.

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