

Immense destruction has been caused by the spruce budworm in the Provinces of Quebec and New Brunswick, and this sudden extension of the outbreak into Ontario threatens all the spruce and balsam timber between Lake Temiskaming and the Great Lakes. In conjunction with the air survey, detailed entomological studies are being made by ground survey.

The plane and party remained in the north for about three weeks with Haileybury as the base. Col. Leckie returned to Ottawa in preparation for his flight across the continent from Halifax to Vancouver. On this trip he will come north as far as North Bay travelling from there in the direction of Georgian Bay and the Great Lakes. He was much taken up with the country covered yesterday, and describes the Ottawa valley as a "wonderful sight" from the air.

Apart from their baggage, the flyers brought some personal mail from Ottawa to Capt. Wickens and Mr. Craig, which marks the first time in the history of the north country that mail has been brought by aeroplane.

BRITISH SUBSIDIZE HOME BUILDING

The British Government is making a free offer of £260 to anyone who will undertake to build a house. The builder can occupy it himself or let it to a tenant. He can, if he likes, when it is completed sell it, for the grant carries no irksome conditions, it is not repayable and becomes in fact absolutely the property of the owner. The building must of course conform to official regulations, it must be approved by the local authority, but beyond that approval the grant is free. It is paid in check without delay when the building is completed. It makes house building, even in these difficult times, both possible and profitable, especially when the builder intends the house for his own occupation. The object of the grant is, of course, primarily to encourage private persons to build houses for themselves and thus relieve the enormous pressure placed on the local councils.

NO "BARE PRAIRIE" FOR THIS MAN (Calgary Herald.)

If there was anything that was missing in the drive to two miles south of Coaldale, it was the trees in that varying landscape of green. But the rich vegetation on all sides obliterated all thought of trees until their presence, in making the home and the farm beautiful, was realized when the excursion arrived at the farm of John Hamilton, one of the C.P.R. readymade farms. Whatever wonderment was previously sensed in the rich and varied verdure of crop and grass was for the moment swept aside in the sight that greeted the visitors of a farm which for appearance would be hard to beat in any of the old settled farm districts. It was astonishment of a new kind that was aroused when it was realized that what is now a well cared for farm, that might have been inhabited by a generation of farmers, was only seven years ago a part of the bald prairie. The beautiful ring of trees which encircled the home plot of the farm looked as if it had been there for a period of years, and yet the trees were only planted in 1916, four years ago; and then in slips of nine inches or so long to grow into what now are trees rising in height to some fifteen and twenty feet. And all this, together with the rich fields of wheat and the alfalfa stacks in the farm, obtained by irrigation wisely applied. The astonishment grew when it was ascertained that this carefully and richly cultivated farm of 320 acres was the outcome of the labors of one man with the help of a hired man.

The farm of Mr. Hamilton is a triumph of the virtues of irrigation. The windbreak, with its six rows of trees, Manitoba maple alternating with ash, with willow and Russian poplar, making the two outer circles, was the perfection of the windbreak trees can afford. On the inner side of the circle of trees all through, skirting the home farm, is a well trimmed hedge of caragana. In the enclosure is an ideal kitchen garden, the pride of the lady of the farm, Mrs John Hamilton.