

Aviation Plans for 1923

R. C. A. F. Is Making Preparation for a Busy Season's Work

Specially written for The Illustrated Canadian Forestry Magazine

By J. A. Wilson, Secretary of the Royal Canadian Air Force

THE Royal Canadian Air Force is busy at all Stations on preparations for the flying season. The Winter's work of overhauling and reconditioning the machines used last year is now approaching completion and plans are being perfected for the Summer's work, commencing in the beginning of May.

Demands for flying for other Government Services are increasing each year and are now beyond the capacity of the machines available. To replace machines worn out after several seasons constant service and to provide more modern and efficient aircraft to meet the many demands for flying, contracts have been let for the delivery of eight of the latest type amphibian flying boats. Two of these will be built in England and delivered in this country early in May. The remaining six will be of Canadian manufacture and are due for delivery during the Summer. Without these a very large part of the programme

would have been impossible. With them and the machines already available, the Air Force have in contemplation a big series of operations and look forward with confidence to providing an even more efficient service than has been given in the past. The new machines will be smaller and, therefore,

more easily handled by the small staffs available at the stations. They will require less maintenance; use less fuel for a much greater speed; have a greater carrying capacity in relation to their H. P., and a higher ceiling. The range of the operations and the ease with which they can be carried out will therefore be greatly increased by the new additions to the equipment of the Air Force.

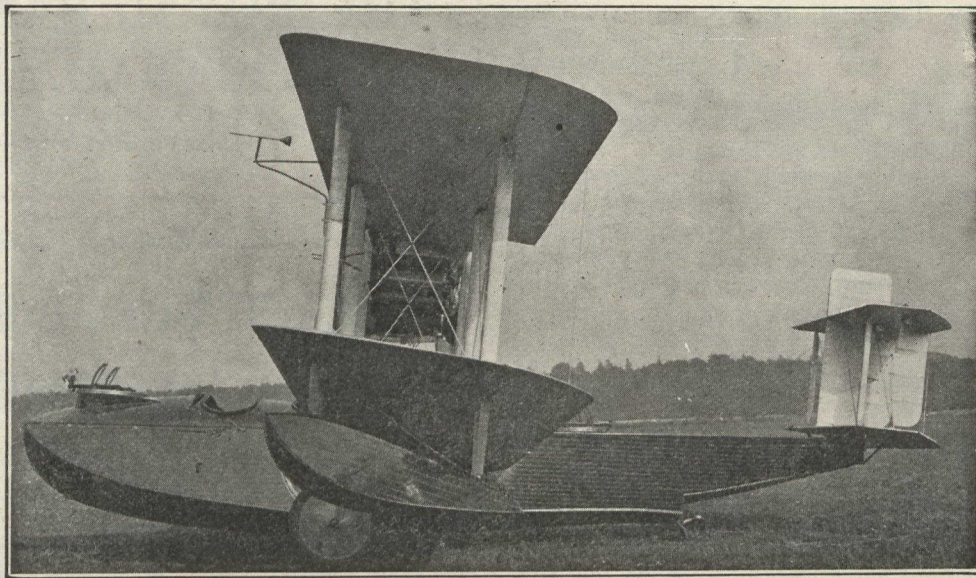
A tentative programme of work for 1923 has been drawn up as follows:

Patrols, in the railway belt in British Columbia, during the season of fire hazard, as required by the Forestry Branch, over the district lying between Revelstoke and Vancouver, will be carried out. No definite agreement has yet been reached with the British Columbia Government in regard to work for their forestry service. It is expected, however, that work similar to but double that of last year will be required in the coastal regions of southern British Columbia and on Vancouver Island.

This work included five trips on fire detection. These trips were not on any regular patrol, but were special trips of discovery ordered on information, or to obtain definite information where no reports had been received. A distance of eight hundred and eighty-two miles was covered on this work and the light three-passenger machine was used. Eighteen trips of fire fighting inspection were made and a total of forty-four hours ten minutes was flown, covering two thousand, six hundred and ninety-three miles. Seven flights were made on actual fire fighting. Forty-five fire fighters were carried to various fires. The flying time on this work was fifteen hours, thirty-eight minutes, with a distance flown of nine hundred and ninety-eight miles. On general supervision of Field Staff, eight trips were made, with a total flying time of seventeen hours, twenty-one minutes. Forty-three passengers were carried, covering a distance

of one thousand and fifty-nine miles.

From High River the patrols for the Forestry Branch and National Parks Branch over the Bow River and Crow's Nest Reserves and Waterton Park in southern Alberta will be continued, and, in addition, occasional patrols will be undertaken over the Rocky Mountain Park dis-



VICKERS "VIKING" AMPHIBIAN FLYING BOAT

Eight machines of this type have been purchased for use of the R.C.A.F. this year.

trict as far south and west as Windermere, B. C. It had been hoped to provide a regular fire patrol over this Park, but the limited funds available and the demands from other services made this impossible. Provided conditions permit, some flying will also be done from the Yellow Head Pass over the Park areas in that district. These will be undertaken principally for the survey services, but will also provide some measure of protection to the forests at the same time.

The plans provide for 725 hours flying during the season on this work. This will be sufficient to maintain a regular air patrol during the whole season of fire hazard and special flights as found necessary for the Forestry Branch. The modified D. H. 4B single seater aeroplanes, fitted with wireless telephony, which have given complete satisfaction during the past season, will again be employed. Their efficiency has been proved by the fact that out of a total of 495 flights made, not one single