

Aerial Activities in Canada

THROUGH the prompt action of one of the pilots from High River Air Station, Alberta, a large tract of valuable forest in the Bow River Reserve was saved from inevitable destruction late in October, 1922. The weather had been exceptionally dry for some weeks, and the pilot while flying over the Bow River Valley on the 25th October noticed a small fire burning on the western edge of a large block of valuable timber. Realizing the danger he landed near the Indian Reserve at Morley to ensure that measures were taken to cope with it before it assumed large dimensions. With the help of the fire ranger and the Indian Agent a party of men were despatched immediately to the scene of the outbreak and further help was sent in next day with the result that the fire was subdued before night.

Next day the strongest gale experienced during the season sprang up from the west and had the fire not been mastered it is certain that a very large tract of forest country would have been utterly destroyed.

In the opinion of the District Forestry Officer, the value of the timber saved by this prompt action more than justified the expenditure necessary to maintain the Air Station during the whole season.

Eighty-four Fires Discovered

The report of the Officer in Charge of the Aerial Fire Patrol over the Algonquin Park District during the past Summer shows that no less than 84 fires were discovered and reported by means of aircraft during the Summer.

In addition to the detection of fires in many instances

the Chief Ranger was enabled to size up the situation from the air in a way he could not possibly have done from the ground, and so dispose his forces to fight the fires in the best possible way.

On other occasions when fires threatened to get beyond the control on a windy day a portable pump and extra equipment and men were rushed to the scene of the fires and serious conflagrations prevented. The resultant saving of timber and fire fighting cost in a few cases of this kind would amply cover the expense of the maintenance and operation of the Air Station.

Mapped by Sea-planes

Eleven million acres of the forested area of Patricia, which will be tapped by the James Bay extension of the T. and N. O. Railway have been completely mapped by the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests. The information was mostly gathered by seaplanes last Summer, observers sketching in the tree covered areas from aloft and later checking up the information by ground parties. The result has all the features of the standard survey method with the additional accuracy and remarkable speed which only the aircraft can supply. The entire job was accomplished in a fraction of the time formerly occupied by forest surveyors operating from the ground.

Plane Killed Caterpillars

Last fall in Ohio a six acre grove of Catalpa trees contained 4,800 trees, 25 to 30 feet tall, which were badly infested with caterpillars was covered with poison by an aeroplane which took not more than 54 seconds to do the job. The experiment demonstrated the ability of the pilot to place the poisonous stuff where desired and at the same time, the effect on the caterpillars was most gratifying, since it was estimated that 99 per cent were destroyed. This experiment was conducted by the Ohio Government experimentation and the results as given are official.

VICKERS "VIKING" AMPHIBIAN

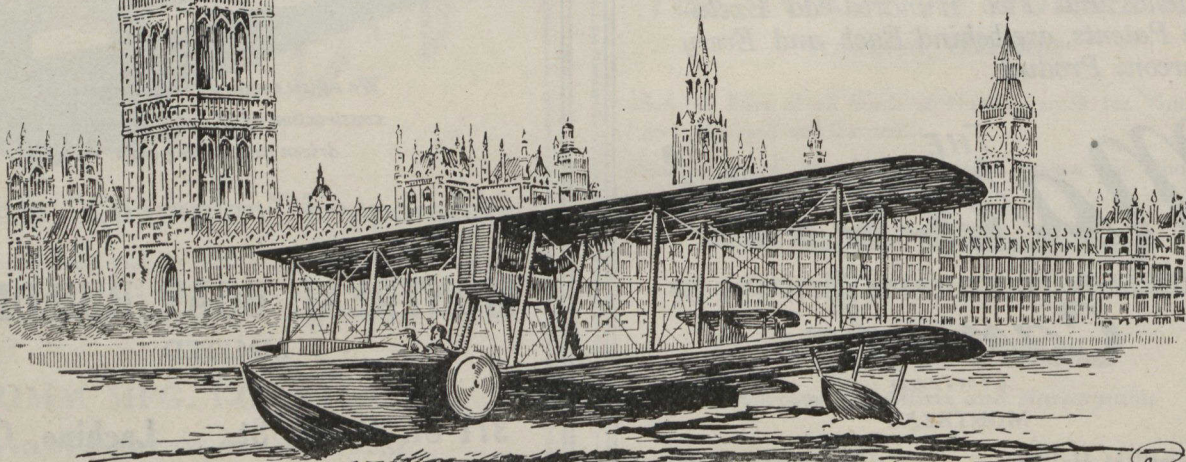
Brief Specification:

"VIKING" MARK IV, Six passengers and baggage or 1,360 lbs
Freight RANGE: 340 miles, SPAN: 50ft. HEIGHT: 15ft. 1 in.
LENGTH: 35 ft.

The 'Viking' was the winner of the First Prize of £10,000 for the Amphibian Class of Aircraft entered for the British Air Ministry Competition, Sept., 1920.

**VICKERS
LIMITED**

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Vickers "Viking" Amphibian on the Thames.