

a rapidity and thoroughness possible in no other way. The preservation of the forests on the public domain can probably be ensured by air patrols, and other avenues of activity will doubtless be opened up as the field is intensively studied.

Finally such a system must be worked out as will provide the country with an air force available for duty if a threat to the country is made. The creation of such a force involves some difficult problems. It takes very much longer to train an air fighter than it does to train a fighter on land. The degree of skill required is of the highest, and the equipment made use of is not only enormously expensive, but, unlike ordnance, it very quickly becomes obsolete. In proportion to its population, Canada has to-day an air personnel probably larger than any other country, and it will be one of the first duties of the Air Board to consider how that personnel can be organized and how wastage from it can be replaced. It seems clear that it is financially impossible that that organization should take the form of a large professional air force. Means must be found to create an effective organization, most of the members of which are primarily civilians and are yet trained and ready for war.