

AIRCRAFT FOR FORESTRY SERVICE

AIRPLANES USED SUCCESSFULLY IN FOREST SERVICE

Firefighters Carried To Scene of Blaze and Prevent Spread of Flames.

PRINCE RUPERT, B. C., April 17.—“Fire on the Nechako river!” The words came distinctly out of the air. “Where?” asked a watcher at the forest patrol station near Prince George. The word whirred off into the sky. Traveling on aerial vibrations it shot across the forests. Thirty miles away another station caught it. “Forty-two miles south-by-east of Stuart lake,” was the answer returned out of the void of space.

PROMPT ON SCENE.

An airplane rose swiftly from the Prince George station. Under full power it skimmed through the sunlit silence over the wilderness of spruce and fir. Far off the three men in the fuselage spied a cloud of smoke boiling up from the horizon. Straight as the flight of an arrow they steered for it. Twenty minutes after the alarm was sounded they were on the ground fighting in the red track of the flames.

Before a strong wind the conflagration might have turned a hundred leagues of evergreen woodland into a black desert crowded with the gaunt skeletons of charred trees. The timely arrival of the fire fighters confined its destructive sweep to the compass of a few square miles.

Possibly a million dollars worth of good timber had been saved by the wireless telephone and the airplane.

More than this had been saved. The farm homes of settlers have transformed the Nechako and Bulkley valleys along the Grand Trunk Pacific railway into garden spots. Thriving villages dot the region. Lumbering camps and sawmills are numerous.

All these would have been wiped out if the flames had not been stopped in mid-career.

Government statistics show that 390,000 acres of British Columbia forests were destroyed by fire in 1920. This represents a loss of 236,000,000 feet of timber, valued at \$299,000. The damage to young growth is estimated at \$186,000, making a total loss of \$485,000.

Of the year's fires 345 or 28 per cent were put out before they had spread over a quarter of an acre and 391 or 31 per cent were extinguished before they had covered ten acres. The effectiveness of fire fighting under modern methods has greatly reduced losses as compared with former years.

We have had quite a little experience in the development of planes for use over forest areas—and would welcome the opportunity of discussing this experience with you and possibly adapting the use of airplanes in the solution of your problems.

DAYTON WRIGHT COMPANY



Dayton, Ohio, U.S.A.



MANUFACTURERS OF COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT IN THE CITY
WHICH WAS THE BIRTHPLACE OF AVIATION