

Air Fighters for Timber Guarding

On the subject of aerial forest patrol the Montreal Star thus quotes Mr. George R. Sighthall, honorary secretary of the Canadian Division of the Aerial League of the British Empire:

Among the best services these aviators will be able to render to their country will be forest ranging. The Dominion has such vast territories of timbered lands that it is impossible at present properly to patrol even the fringes of them; and the fire losses of Canada run into millions upon millions of dollars. The forest rangers now go on horseback or by canoe, taking days and weeks to travel from one point to another from which they can take a survey of the surrounding country, and then, owing to the illimitable territory, are only able to guess at the exact place where the fires are raging. Then it takes them days to get back and set in motion the fire fighting forces of the countryside.

By the establishment of an aerial forest ranging service, aviators could cover hundreds of miles in a day, and with the knowledge of map reading and other sciences they are now learning overseas, would be able at once to locate the position of a fire and fly to the nearest habitation to send out the alarm, and save thou-

sands of acres of timbered lands from destruction. Mr. Lighthall expressed the belief that by the establishment of such a service the fire losses of Canada would be better than cut in half, and the appalling destruction of the country's timber resources limited. The amount of property that would be saved in one year by such a force would pay for the cost of such service many times over.

Senator George E. Foster, chairman of the Aerial Transit Committee of the Aerial League also believes in the practicability of such service. He says:

"Those of us who realize the immense value of the timbered area of Canada must appreciate the fact that the great destruction from fire of our forest reserves must cease if we are to provide pulp and paper for the world, as some of us dream. I am one of those who hope that the Government will see its way to assist in this development. I am satisfied that if we do not do so we will be blamed by that splendid band of Canadian heroes who will come back from France and Italy and other fronts, imbued with dreams of national development, and who will blame us if we fail to take the preliminary steps necessary in order to gratify their ambitions."

To Victory Loan Subscribers

A letter to the Canadian Forestry Journal, by Talbot Lee, Toronto.

You are now in partnership with the Dominion Government.

As a Canadian citizen you have always been interested in the conservation of Canada's national assets. Now more than ever it is your concern to see that these assets, one which your loan security is based, are not in any way depreciated.

The forests of Canada, occupying in the main, areas unfit for agricultural development, form one of the most important components of our

national wealth, the exported products of which equal those of all other manufactured goods put together.

Negligence in the past, has consigned to the flames two-thirds of Canada's original timber wealth.

The most potent factor in preventing a continuance of this disastrous state of affairs is to be found in the activities of the Canadian Forestry Association.

Their power to extend these activ-