

AIRPLANES AS AIDS TO FOREST PATROLS

They May Become Important Factors in Checking Forest Fires.

With the cessation of hostilities overseas, the development of peace-time uses of the airplane has become a live subject, which is receiving considerable attention. The Commission of Conservation issues the following article showing the uses the aeroplane can be put to in forest fire patrol work:—

Experiments previously conducted in Wisconsin confirm the opinions expressed by returned aviators, that there is a large field of potential development in this direction.

The British Columbia Forest Service became convinced during the past year of the feasibility of airplane patrol for forest fires, and leased a flying boat for use along the extensive coast line of that province. The machine was, however, accidentally wrecked before it had had an opportunity to demonstrate its value. It is understood that the experiment is to be continued during the season of 1919.

The co-operative forest protective as-

sociations of Quebec, under the leadership of the St. Maurice association, are also undertaking to arrange for patrol by flying boat, or airplane, to discover fires in association territory in that province.

Similarly, the matter has been brought to the attention of the Canadian Air Force which is in a peculiarly favourable position to make experiments along these lines, to demonstrate the extent to which, and the conditions under which, the airplane may be used advantageously in forest protection work. The matter is one of such wide national interest that the co-operation of Dominion agencies in this direction would be fully justified.

It must be borne in mind, however, that such a patrol will involve considerable expense for maintenance of machines and salaries of staff, that patrol by men on the ground can still by no means be dispensed with, particularly in the settled districts, and that the mere discovery of fires, however prompt, loses much of its value unless adequate provision is made for getting men quickly to the scene when a fire is discovered. This implies improvement in communication and transportation on a par with the improvement in the discovery of fires resulting from the use of aircraft. Presumably it will be a matter of development of the more or less distant future before ordinary gangs of fire-fighters will be transported to forest fires by

airplane. In the meantime, the opening up of the country by construction of roads, trails and portages, and the purchase of launches, automobiles, track motors and portable fire-fighting pumps, will be in order. Improved communication is also necessary, whether by wireless telegraphy or by ordinary or wireless telephone. Improved appliances along these lines, developed at the front, should prove of great value in forest fire protection.

During the war the airplane has proved of incalculable value in the preparation of maps by photography. Similarly, it will also prove of great utility in mapping drainage and forest types in the vast unsurveyed and relatively unexplored areas of our northern forests. In this way, a much more accurate idea could be secured of the forest conditions and existing supplies of timber than will otherwise be feasible for many years to come. Such work must, of course, be supplemented by a certain amount of detailed investigation by men on the ground, to determine the specific composition and average stand of the various forest types. Work of this character might readily be carried on as a supplement to the fire patrol by airplane, or independently, according to the circumstances of the case.

In any event, present indications point to a distinct field of usefulness for aircraft in connection with various phases of forest work.—C. L.

TENDERS INVITED FOR HOSPITAL GUARD HOUSE

Sealed tenders addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tender for Guard House, Military Hospital, Winnipeg (Tuxedo)," will be received until 12 o'clock noon, Tuesday, January 28, 1919, for the construction of a guard house, Military hospital, Winnipeg (Tuxedo), Man.

Plans and specification can be seen and forms of tender obtained at the office of the Chief Architect, Department of Public Works, Ottawa; the Clerk of Works, Regina; and of the Superintendent of Military Hospitals, Winnipeg, Man.

Tenders will not be considered unless made on the forms supplied by the Department and in accordance with the conditions set forth therein.

Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted cheque on a chartered bank payable to the order of the Minister of Public Works, equal to 10 per cent of the amount of the tender. War Loan Bonds of the Dominion will also be accepted as security, or war bonds and cheques if required to make up an odd amount.

By order.

R. C. DESROCHERS,
Secretary.

Department of Public Works,

STRIKING TRIBUTE TO CANADA'S WAR EFFORT

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fore the healing influence can appear; but it does appear. The nature of man is such that, if left to his own devices, in my judgment, his tendency is upward and not downward. It is very hard for the man who has been on the ground, with somebody sitting on his back and pounding him on the head, to walk steadily when he is first permitted to get up, but after he gets up he walks. (Applause.) And so this will all come out right, and the spectacle of the world some years from now is a cheering spectacle.

What finer thing can there be for the mind of man to dwell upon than the nations of the earth really joining hands and sympathizing with one another, concerted for the benefit of the peoples who comprise those nations? And that is what is coming to pass.

But before it comes to pass there is going to be this period of the waters being troubled and many of us being anxious at the delay of the healing influence. Now, it seems to me that that gives us—and I say "us" advisedly—it gives Canada and the United States an opportunity to confer still another service on mankind. We have been through the heroic adventure together. Our sons have died, where death was the penalty and price that had to be paid, for the redemption of the world. They haven't failed. Now these peoples about whom we are troubled are watching us. They are going to say: "We cannot understand this constitution or these by-laws. We don't know what magic there is in those words. But we will watch what those people do." They are going to look to us as examples and patterns of the life that can be lived under constitutions like ours.

A SIMILE IN BROWNING.

I don't know how many of you have read Browning's wonderful drama, "In a Balcony." You will recall that there is in that a queen who had been so far set above her subjects that she had never had the experience of really being loved for herself. The people had respected her as a queen, but what she wanted was to be loved as a woman wants to be loved. And in the evolution of that play she suddenly believes that a man who has served her as a minister with wonderful skill has, while he was working for her, learned not only to respect her as a queen, but to love her as a woman, and, filled with the glory of this new emotion, she rushes off to one of her ladies-in-waiting, Constance, and says to her: "Constance, you are young. You have never been a queen. People have not been held at arm's length by the artificial dignity of your position. Men have loved you, and

you have loved men. Tell me how to act when men love you. When my lover comes and says thus and so to me, what shall I do—what shall I say?"

We are very much in that situation. These peoples now have discovered freedom. They are vibrating to a new emotion, they are filled with the immensity of a thing hitherto undreamed of as possible, they are drunk with the glory of this new vision, and they are coming to us and saying: "You have had this before. You have seen this vision and had these possibilities. We ask ourselves, how can we use our freedom so as to produce a great civilization? What shall we do with it," they are asking us.

And so there rest upon the shoulders of all peoples like those of Canada and the United States—and I make no exclusive classification—there rest upon us the burden and the privilege of setting example of liberty in law and order. We must show them where the concessions of the individual's right are necessary for the common good. We must show them that the first intoxications of this new emotion are likely to be misleading and that only in an ordered society is liberty ever either safe or able to work out all of its blessings. (Hear, hear, and applause.)

IN GENEROUS RIVALRY.

And our inspiration to do that, of course, is very great. The last two or three years of our life have especially fitted us for that. We, too, have departed from the customary to some extent; we have not been living our normal lives. We have been thinking new things and unthinking old things. None of us have been selfish. We have been thinking only of the common good. The old lives of thrift and competition, honourable enough in themselves, under ordinary conditions, have all been thrust aside and there has been only one rivalry and competition among us all—your people and mine—and that was the generous rivalry to see who could render the greatest service. Our lives have been different. We have been mobilizing our resources for different ends, and we have been sending our children, not to the plough and the factory, but to the battlefield, and we have been bearing the scars of warfare in our own breasts and seeing the waste-fulness and destruction of it. All of that has been going on, and yet we have dealt with it as we dealt with the other things that liberty gave us to do, in an ordered way, and we have learned that we can apply these latent capacities—we the democracies and all their children—we have learned that we can apply these latent capacities to great ends, and that the

old theories under which we have always been working, that order and law and consultation and conference and the gradual evolution of the right and the community interest are the processes by which safety is finally to be found. So that we are specially adapted now, I think.

And then your boys are coming home, our boys are coming home, we hope, in great numbers and speedily. And no doubt you have found that they are different from the boys who went away. A Y.M.C.A. religious worker over in France was addressing some five or six hundred American soldiers, and he had been a religious worker in the Y.M.C.A. in America and thought he knew exactly how to talk to young men—exactly what to tell them to do and what not to do. He found he was not getting very far with that group of soldiers, and it suddenly occurred to him that he did not know what they were thinking about. Evidently they were not thinking about the things he was. So he got some slips of paper and pencils and passed them around and asked those boys to write for him what each of them regarded as the three greatest sins, and pass those papers up, so that he could find out what was in their mind. When the vote was taken it was unanimous on Sin No. 1, substantially unanimous on Sin No. 2, and there was a very fair preponderance for Sin No. 3; and, in their order, those sins were these: No. 1, upon which the entire company was agreed as being the greatest sin, was Cowardice; and No. 2, upon which there was substantial concurrence, was Selfishness, the unwillingness of a soldier to bear his part in the struggle; and No. 3, for which there was a fair preponderance, was Big Head. (Applause.) And it really was; that is a big one.

WILL FIND ALL CHANGED.

So your soldiers will not come back with the same category of virtues. Things have been infinitely simplified by this war. We have not had time to fret about little things. We have been sufficiently busy with large things. We have gone back to the elements and fundamentals of life. These boys are coming home, and they will find you changed, just as they have been changed, with new attitudes toward life, new desires; and your problem and their problem, our problem, is now going to be, not to allow these new-found and simple virtues to be lost, but to transmute into civilian virtues these heroic attributes which the soldiers have demonstrated in their fighting at the front.

And so some day—it won't be long—some day the history of this war will be written. Not the history of the bat-

tles; that will be doubtless written about by everybody, and there will be all kinds of beliefs and opinions about it—sharp controversies as to whether Contingent A marched up or down the hill at a particular hour of the clock, and all that; but some day the history of this war will be written from the point of view of its effect upon civilization, the consequence to mankind of the struggle we made and of the victory we won. The story cannot be told without telling of the men in France. It will draw the picture of the infinite good-nature and cheerfulness of the soldiers of the Allied armies, yours and ours. Your soldiers, like ours, were known as smiling faced men in France. They were brave and strong and cheerful, and they knew what they were about. They knew why they were there, and they never flinched. And the miracle will be analyzed as to how it was that these young men could be so inspired, without their knowing it, by the morals of a great cause as to be such soldiers as they were.

SPREAD OF EQUALITY.

Then the historian will proceed to take account of the state of the world, and he will find mankind in a happier condition. There will have grown up larger liberties, a more universal spread of equality of opportunity, a more insistent emphasis upon the right of every child born into the world to be educated and to have a chance to develop to the maximum those gifts wherewith God has qualified him, whatever they are, and there will be a sweeter understanding among nations; competition still; striving for trade still; yes, both in the nations and among men; but less disposition among mankind to regard things as great merely because they are large; a more insistent demand that our activities, personal, national and international, have a moral quality; less unhappiness in the world; more self-government in the world; and there will be added to the free and self-governing nations innumerable other peoples, redeemed from political and intellectual bondage and suffering and degradation as a consequence of this great experience. And when the historian has reached the end of the chapter and has noted the immense advance of mankind within the twenty years which he covers with his scan, he will write—and it will be a consolation to our spirit—that bitter as the sacrifice was, and mad as the struggle seemed to be, when it was forced upon us, great as were the devastation and the loss, and bitter the personal suffering, the price has its compensations in the higher destiny for the human race.