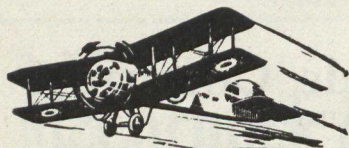


AERONAUTICAL SECTION



A department devoted particularly to the application of aerial methods in forest conservation and generally to the promotion of sane civil aviation in Canada.

Aeroplanes Prove Worth as Fire-Fighting Auxiliary

Operating Over Flame-Swept Areas in Quebec Forests, They Showed Real Efficiency.

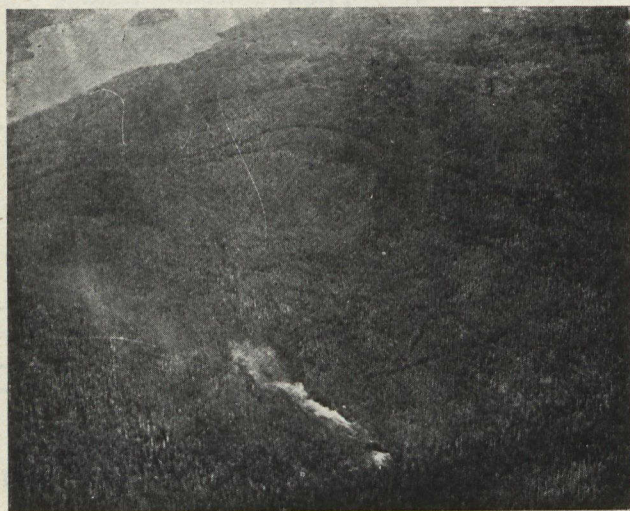
By GEORGE A. MACKIE

THE recent very serious forest fires in the province of Quebec have served as a means of demonstrating the value of the aeroplane as an auxiliary to fire-fighting forces and, incidentally, this demonstration may be said to have converted several of the men high up in the councils of Forestry enterprises—including several who were heretofore inclined to be antagonistic to aerial patrols—into firm and outspoken protagonists on behalf of aeronautics as a necessary adjunct to this very important Canadian industry. No statistics are at present

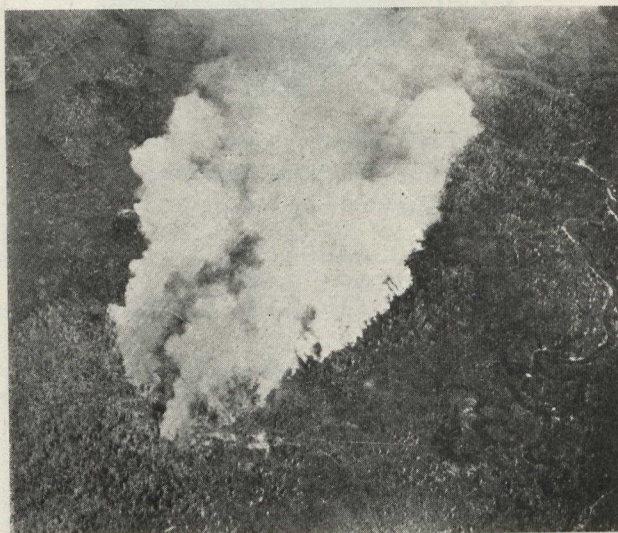
effort. As a matter of fact the Air Station at Lac a la Tortue was all set to conduct extensive operations along the line of aerial photography when on twenty minutes notice, the entire staff and equipment was switched to a fire-fighting force. The photographic machine in its first flight, as a matter of service, reported to headquarters a number of fires, one of which had been burning for three days unknown to rangers or owners. The information thus given proved of such value to the latter that they immediately virtually commandeered the staff

Two Photos of a Forest Fire Viewed from the Air

Reproduced by courtesy Price Bros. Aviation Dept.



The Initial Stage



Well Under Way

forthcoming with regard to the monetary saving effected by aeroplane auxiliaries in the recent operations but some general idea of this may be obtained from a brief account of the work done in the period from May 15th to June 15th by the equipment and personnel of Laurentide Air Services Limited, a company recently organized to specialize in aerial work for lumber and pulp and paper companies.

At the outset it may be stated that the work of fire-fighting by aeroplane as recently carried out by this company, was undertaken in an emergency without any real preparation for this particular branch of aeronautical

of the Air Station who subsequently put in about the busiest month of their existence in co-operating with the previously organized land fire-fighting forces.

During the period above mentioned the aviators flew for a total of more than 80 hours over the limits of the Laurentide Company and the St. Maurice Valley Protective Association. The operations were in charge of Pilot H. D. Wilshire and among the forestry executives who accompanied him on his flights were Messrs. Ellwood Wilson and C. R. Townsend of the Laurentide Company, Henry Sorgius of the St. Maurice Association and Ritchie of the Wayagamack Company. The machines also