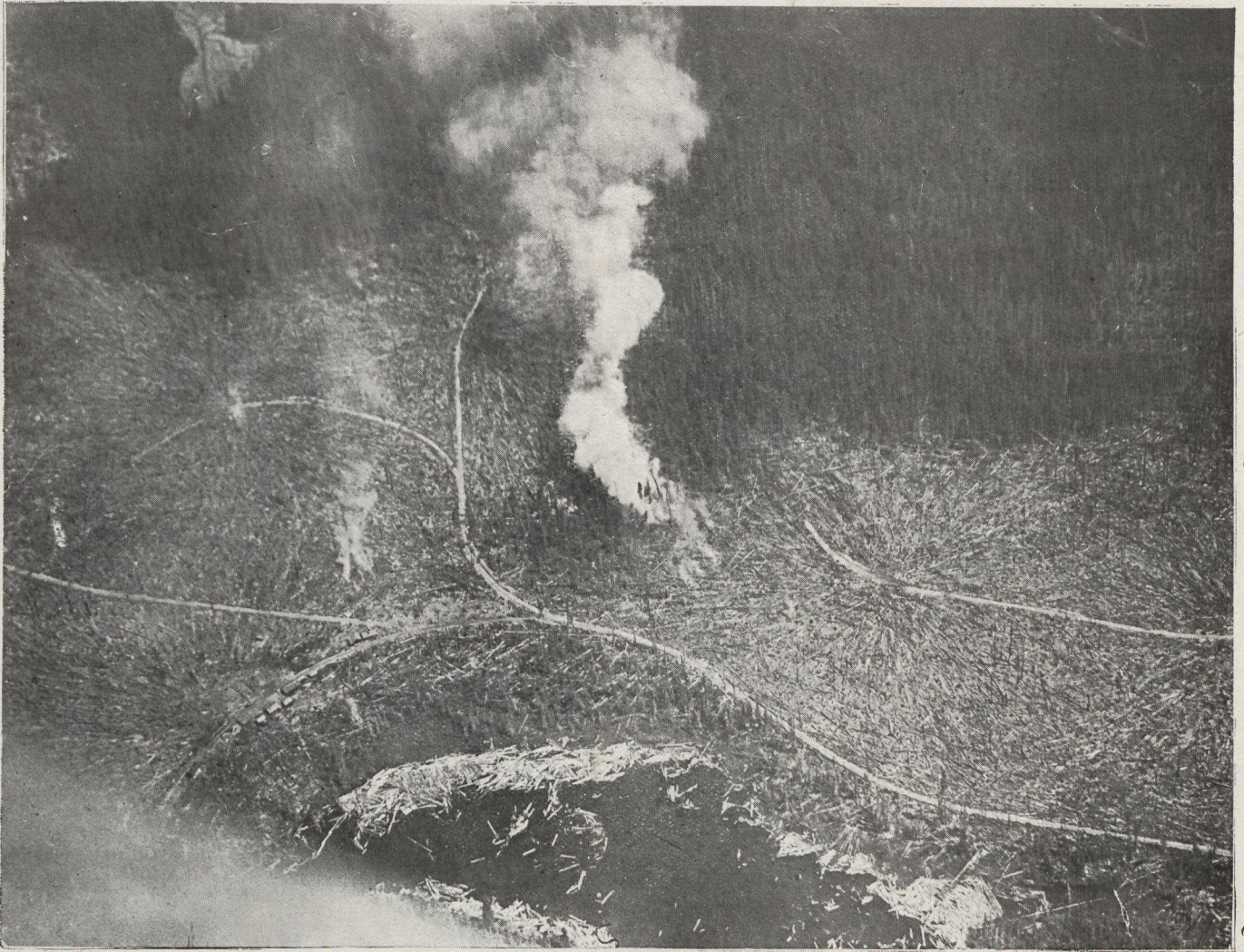




The first stage of a developing forest fire in British Columbia as seen by aeroplane. Photograph by courtesy Dominion Air Board. See opposite page.

nized as well as the sane businesslike methods on which operations have been conducted.

There have been no accidents to any of his machines. There have been no failures to get to any place set out for, and the Major has been on the job all the time to co-operate in every way possible with the various departments with which he has to deal. The successes of the past season have been largely due to his personal supervision and a great deal of the actual piloting has been carried out by himself. I am told that machines from this station have flown over 30,000 miles this year.

A Seaplane base was established with the object of developing Civil Flying, in 1919, at Jericho Beach, Vancouver. The special work to be undertaken included inspection trips for the Federal Customs Department to check smuggling and check dope traffic, inspection and supervision of coastal fishing industry for the Fishery Department to enforce the regulations, co-operation with the Dominion and Provincial Departments for geodetic survey, water reconnaissance, forest work and other departmental field activities.

In describing plans, results and con-

clusions on the use of aeroplanes for forest work, a short outline of the general forest problems is necessary and in this I have to confine myself to the Vancouver Forest District.

This particular Forest district extends from the International Boundary north to Cape Caution on the Mainland, including the Fraser Valley as far east as Hope and the Mainland Coast Inland to the Height of Land of the Coast Range. It includes the whole of Vancouver Island. There is approximately twenty million acres of territory within these boundaries. The stand of commercial timber in this district is estimated at 172 billion feet Board Measure, or about one-half the total estimated stand for the whole Province, according to the Reports of the Commission of Conservation.

Forest Problems.

Protection of this timber resource is naturally the first consideration of the Forest Service. Administration of the Forest Laws and the everyday conducting of the Department's business comes next because the Government has a real equity in every acre and every foot of standing timber, the money for which is collected

annually as the timber is cut. Concern for the future is the third big problem which requires research and investigation into actual growing conditions for the replacement of what is cut.

Organization.

The following organization is maintained. A headquarters staff located at Vancouver is in direct charge. Spread over the district are four Supervisors, nineteen permanent Rangers and twenty-one Scalers. During the Fire Season twenty-eight Assistant Rangers, twenty-two Patrolmen and fifty Honorary Fire Wardens are employed. For the transportation of this staff twenty-five launches are in use, nineteen Ford Cars and three Speeders, and a small number of saddle horses.

Fire Protection.

The fire hazard in this district is usually of about five months duration in the Summer. Some 50,000 acres of new slash are created annually from the cutting of 1 billion feet of timber. Some 800 to 1,000 logging camps employing 10 or 12,000 men are operating in the timber using 350 to 375 steam donkeys and locomotive engines. Pre-emptors clearing land,