

patrol was missed through mechanical defects. This perfect record is a tribute to the unremitting attention paid to detail on the part of the staff of the High River Air Station and the excellence of the design and manufacture of the Rolls-Royce engines used.

In the Manitoba area, patrols for the Dominion Forestry Branch from the main base at Victoria Beach and sub-bases at Norway House and LePas will be continued and extended. The new machines will be specially valuable in this district as last year the large and obsolete F. 3 boats made the efficient carrying out of this work with the small staff available, a task of extreme difficulty. The use of aircraft for fire detection and prevention is particularly valuable in this unsettled country where the forest area is very large and the present methods of transportation slow, uncertain and laborious. The work done, during the past two seasons has clearly proved the success of air patrols, and it is hoped that this year an adequate service may be maintained throughout the season with a corresponding reduction in the ground patrols.

Requests for similar work in northern Saskatchewan have been considered. Lack of funds and the limited number of machines available, will not permit of the establishment of separate units and a permanent base of operations in that district this year. Reconnaissance flights will be undertaken however, to gain information with a view to the extension of the air patrol into northern Saskatchewan in future years. It is also hoped to carry out a large programme of transportation for the maintenance of survey parties working in the remoter regions of the country and a programme of photography for the Survey Branches of the Government.

The programme allows for 700 hours flying for the Forestry services. This exceeds considerably the amount carried out last year and should provide for continual patrols throughout the season of fire hazard. It is

proposed to employ Vicker's "Viking" amphibians and H. S. 2L flying boats for the patrols and, in addition, to have available at Victoria Beach one large H. 16 twin engine flying boat for the carriage of fire fighting parties and equipment. All machines will be fitted with wireless telephony.

Negotiations are in progress with the Provincial Government of Ontario for the continuation of the forest fire patrols in the Algonquin Park region and their extension northward and westward over the country beyond the French River and Lake Nipissing. If the proposals now under consideration are approved the main base of operations will be moved into the North Bay district from the old headquarters at Whitney on the Parry Sound line. A base there will be much nearer the centre of the proposed operations. With refuelling depots at convenient places throughout the area a very large district containing some of the most valuable forest country in eastern Canada can be efficiently covered from North Bay. The operations for the Provincial Government will be carried out on a repayment basis as was the case last season.

The machines used on this work will be H. S. 2L flying boats and later in the season when deliveries are received Vickers "Viking" amphibians. For some of the patrol work a modified Avro seaplane with a Wolesley "Viper" engine and a single float, will be used. Tests were made of the Avro machines last year. With the modifications now in hand it is hoped to provide an efficient forest fire patrol single seater machine with a small H. P., more economical to operate than the larger types. These can then be held for carrying fire fighting parties and equipment.

In Quebec and the Maritime provinces the programme of work is still under consideration and it is not possible to state exactly what operations will be undertaken. Some interesting proposals have been received

VICKERS "VIKING" AMPHIBIAN

Brief Specification:

"VIKING" MARK IV, Six passengers and baggage or 1,360 lbs
Freight RANGE: 340 miles, SPAN: 50ft. HEIGHT: 15ft. 1 in.
LENGTH: 35 ft.

The 'Viking' was the winner of the First Prize of £10,000 for the Amphibian Class of Aircraft entered for the British Air Ministry Competition, Sept., 1920.

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Vickers "Viking" Amphibian on the Thames.