

Price Bros., Limited, Aerial System

An Interesting Description of a Canadian Pulp and Lumber Company's Aerial Operations

One of the striking features of the Great War was the remarkable work accomplished by the aeroplane and the great benefits that might be derived from its use by the business interests throughout the world, and among those who were attracted by its possibilities were a number of Canadian lumber firms. To the war also can be attributed the tremendous advance in recent years in the development of aircraft, both in respect to the mechanism and its control on the part of the pilots.

Among the firms that were quick to realize the great advantages likely to result from putting into force an aerial service was that of Price Brothers, Limited, of this city, whose limits cover an area of over 8,000 square miles, scattered throughout the Eastern part of the Province of Quebec, and the following summary of the work that will be done, the equipment used and the personnel employed by the Company, which is but a prelude to more extensive aerial operations, will, no doubt, be read with interest, not only by those engaged in the lumber business, but also by those who have the welfare and progress of their country and province at heart.

Photography and Mapping

The operations will consist of photographing with special aerial cameras a part of the limits of Price Brothers & Co. The photographs once developed will either be enlarged or reduced to a predetermined scale, built into mosaic maps and then re-photographed into finished aerial maps ready for comparison with known surveyed ground. Special photographs of dams, river heads, burnt areas, etc., will be made from photographs taken at a height of 1,000 feet. The cameras that will be employed are two Thornton Pickard as were used on the Western Front during the late war, also one Model

K-1 Aero Film camera that contains a roll of 100 films; this latter camera is used solely for map making and survey work; a plane flying at 10,000 feet can photograph with a single roll of 100 films over 75 square miles of territory, allowing for overlaps.

To facilitate this work the maps of the Province of Quebec have been squared according to the military system used during the war. The squaring and lettering system has been approved by the Forestry Branch of the Provincial Government of Quebec, and several large lumber firms.

Type of Machines

In the carrying out of this work special attention had to be paid to the class of machines provided, and those to be employed are two Martinsyde type "A" Mark I Seaplanes, convertible into land planes, both of which are equipped with a Falcon III Rolls Royce 12-cylinder engine of 275 H.P. Their climbing power with full load of 1,000 lbs. is 10,000 feet in 15". They have a maximum speed of 127 m.p.h. Either 1,000 lbs. of cargo and a pilot, with fuel for seven hours, can be carried; or 2, 3 or 4 passengers, with 200 lbs. of cargo and pilot. When it is decided to carry out more extensive flying operations more of this type of machine will be employed.

All equipment used in this department was purchased in England, and is the very best of its kind for the work.

Staff

Realizing that the nature of the work required, the utmost skill on the part of those engaged upon it, the firm of Price Brothers, Limited, set about obtaining men whose attainments in the art of flying left no doubt as to their qualifications in this respect, and all pilots employed are late Offi-