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Peace-time Uses of Hydro-aëroplanes

Forest Fire Patrol Offers Field for Experiment—Progress in the U. S. and Canada

One of the peace-time uses of air-craft is for forest fire patrol. In the United States, experiments have been carried out in some of the Western states, under an arrangement between the Air Service and the Forest Service. These trials produced such promising results in the prompt discovery and reporting of forest fires that a greatly enlarged programme for the current year is under consideration.

Col. H. H. Arnold, of the U. S. Air Service, has presented to his Government a report recommending that an air patrol be inaugurated to cover all lands, Government, state and private, in western Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon and California. This would require five complete observation squadrons of 18 planes each, or 90 planes, with pilots, observers and complete squadron equipment, each plane to be equipped with radio sets for sending location of fires discovered, and two planes in each squadron to be equipped with wireless telephone sets and cameras. Operators for wireless stations at bases and sub-bases, and the establishment of pigeon lofts at bases and sub-bases would also be required.

A resolution of the Western Forestry and Conservation Association points out that the use of air-planes to protect the nation's forests gives opportunity for the training of pilots and observers, while serving a purpose which, in itself, fully justifies the expense involved.

The experiments along this line in Canada have been comparatively limited, being confined, during the past summer, to two seaplanes loaned by the Dominion Government to the St. Maurice Forest Protective Association. The Quebec Government has also co-operated by aiding the work with a cash grant.

In Canada, the whole question of the Dominion Government's programme of air services is under consideration by the Air Board. As the possibilities and limitations of peace-time uses of aircraft have been by no means fully demonstrated, it is logical that the Dominion Government should take the lead, in co-operation with the

Forest Protection and the Newspapers

Popular Interest in Forestry should be Stimulated to Assure Newspaper Supply

Newspapers are absolutely dependent upon the forest, through the medium of the paper-maker, for their existence. It is not surprising therefore, that the publishers are taking an active interest in the source of their raw material. Since its inception, the Commission of Conservation has advocated the protection of the forests from fire, the regulation of cutting, the burning of slash, the regulation of settlers' clearing fires under the permit system, and the requirement that railways take adequate precautions against the occurrence and spread of fires due to railway agencies. With the adoption of these measures, towards which an excellent beginning has been made, the forest will have a reasonable chance of existence. It will eventually reproduce itself, and continue the supply of pulpwood. Much, however, still remains to be accomplished in these directions.

Immense areas of Canada are suitable only for forest growth. These should be permanently set apart, existing young growth protected, and denuded areas replanted. The crop—for the forest is a crop—while a long-time investment, would be a paying one, and would assure the continuance of the pulpwood supply. The price of pulpwood and its product, newsprint, to-day, is high, and will very probably remain so, due to the heavy demand and the higher cost of production. The intensified cutting of the forest to meet this demand makes it necessary that every precaution be taken to protect what we have and to take measures for the reproduction or replanting of forests on our cut-over or burned-over lands to add to the supply.

In the interests of self-preservation, the newspapers should do everything possible to educate public opinion on the necessity of taking care of our forests.

provinces, as to services of an essentially public character. Experimentation and demonstration are essential if this wonderful new development, resulting largely from the war, is to play its full part in the peace-time development of Canada.—Clyde Leavitt

Early Acquisition of Parks Profitable

New York City's Parks Have Been Paid for by Increased Taxes on Adjoining Property—Toronto Parkway Scheme

In city development there are several sound reasons to justify the early acquisition of park lands, not the least of which is their direct effect upon the value of city property, and the consequent increase in the city's income from the taxation of land. In the case of Madison, Wis., new parks not only met all charges, but by reason of the increased value of adjoining property, brought into the city treasury \$10,000 a year in increased taxes. Up to 1914, the city of New York collected, in 25 years, taxes on the property of the three wards contiguous to Central Park, over and above the ordinary increase in the taxable value of the real estate in the remainder of the city, \$65,000,000 or about \$21,000,000 more than the aggregate expense of maintenance and similar expenses during the period 1889-1914. In other words, in addition to acquiring lands valued at \$20,000,000, the city of New York has received \$21,000,000 in cash out of this transaction. The original price paid for the 840 acres forming Central Park was \$6,664,500.

Toronto can well boast of its park areas. In Queen's Park and High Park, the city has two of the finest natural parks in Canada. The total park area, which includes 57 parks, is 1,812 acres. The city's Park Commissioner is planning a boulevard driveway, 63 miles in length, including park driveways, and which he hopes to have approved by the City Council now that the war is over. The main boulevard, encircling the city, will be 33 miles long and the internal driveways will aggregate 30 miles. It is estimated that it will cost approximately \$7,000,000. It will have a width from 100 to 500 feet.

Information gathered by the Town Planning Branch of the Commission of Conservation shows that there is a wide variation in the area of park land in proportion to population provided by the various cities of Canada. A comparison of Canadian cities with United States centres of about equal population shows that Canada has done at least as well in the

Canada's Fire Loss is Not Diminishing

Main Portion of Total is in Larger Losses of \$10,000 or over—Carelessness and Neglect of Dangerous Conditions Responsible

Fire losses in 1919—\$23,500,000. With the war over, with no munition plant fires, with industry under normal conditions, and with many interests advocating fire prevention, Canada, in 1919, reached the above enormous total of fire waste—a waste equal to \$2.90 per capita of her population.

Of the larger losses, there were 288 of \$10,000 and over. These larger losses are mostly of business properties or manufacturing plants. They make up the greater portion of the total loss, and the effect of this loss is widespread. With the destruction of the factory, employment is discontinued and the workman suffers; business is interfered with and the employer suffers. The keen competition of to-day very often absorbs the market for a product before a business can be re-established, and the owners, realizing this condition, decide not to rebuild.

Many of the smaller municipalities have, as their chief support, one large industry. If fire should destroy this industry the community must almost cease to exist, or, alternatively, secure another, often by burdening itself to pay a bonus.

Employers and workmen are almost universally responsible for fires in factories. Through carelessness or negligence they allow conditions to exist which sooner or later create fire dangers. This carelessness is the result, largely, of home training. The greater number of our fires are in the homes, where little care is taken with matches, ashes, lighted cigarettes, and cigars, etc. The careless man at home is careless at work, and this carelessness is the root of our fire loss problem.

To reduce our fire waste radical measures are necessary. Legislation or rules are of no avail unless enforced. Personal care and responsibility by both employer and employee are essential.—John Dixon

provision of public recreation spaces and a comparison with the largest centres of Europe places this country in a very favourable light.—G. H. Ferguson