

Popular belief in the utility of aircraft has developed from the wonderful accomplishments of the air-fleets during the war., But warfare is inevitably carried on regardless of cost. As soon as aircraft come to be applied to a commercial purpose they have to be dealt with on a commercial basis. In forest protection work a forest has a definite commercial value. Therefore there is a definite limit to what can properly be paid for protection work.

As intimated at the start of this article, most forestry people expect that eventually aircraft will be extensively used in forest work. It

seems certain the development will not take place with a rush. The value of forests is steadily rising. More and more attention is being given to their conservation. And more and more attention is being given to the utilization of new methods and appliances in that connection. It is not unreasonable to anticipate a complete revolution in forest fire systems and not unreasonable to expect that just as the fire warden is the main prop of forest fire protection to-day—discovering the fires and putting them out as well—the airplane will in the future do exactly the same work and do it more efficiently.

PROGRESSIVE LIMIT-HOLDERS READY TO PLANT

Those readers of the Forestry Journal on the lookout for signs of progress in the application of forestry principles to the timber lands of Canada will have a special interest in recent developments in Quebec Province. In a conference with the Minister of Lands and Forests, Hon. Horace Mercier, an able and progressive administrator, the Woodlands and Technical Sections of the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association, together with the Quebec Limit-holders' Association, discussed the whole question of the revision of regulations governing the cutting of timber on public-owned forest lands. It was argued, with great reason, that the present diameter limit method of regulation is based upon a desire of Canadian Governments in the early days to leave sufficient trees on cut-over lands to provide a timber stock for the ultimate farmer. Such a regulation was made in a day when many lumbermen were cutting on lands destined to prove of agricultural value. Very little of the present day timber cutting is on other than non-agricultural soils so that the diameter limit does not have its original justification. Furthermore, adherence to a blanket diameter limit irrespective of local conditions, has not worked out in the public interest in that it has failed to leave the cutting areas in a condition to produce a second crop of wood.

A PLAN TO REPLANT.

The meeting also discussed the conditions under which denuded Crown lands could be reforested by co-operation between the limit-holders and the Provincial Government. It was sug-

gested that legislation should be adopted encouraging licensees to plant forest trees upon areas of more than 10 acres deprived of coniferous timber. A special license would be issued in each case, planting to be undertaken within four years of issuance. Tree species would be limited to spruce and pine of all varieties. Four years after planting it is suggested the payment of one dollar per square mile shall vest the lessee with the absolute property of the land occupied under his license for 99 years and any after cost of the planting shall be refunded to the lessee by the Government. All land occupied or patented under the reforestation law should be free from all provincial, municipal and school taxes of any kind during the existence of the planting licenses. For any timber taken from the plantation by the lessee in the course of thinning for improvement purposes, the stumpage taxes would not exceed \$1.50 per cord. The lessee would have the right to clean cut the plantation after the trees had attained a diameter of six inches at 4½ feet from the ground, the stumpage tax payable to the Government not to exceed \$1.50 per cord.

Following the meeting with the Minister a committee was appointed to prepare definite recommendations to the Provincial Government. The members of this committee are W. Gerard Power, manager of the River Ouelle Pulp and Lumber Co., Robt. P. Kernan, of the Donnacona Paper Co., and Ellwood Wilson, Forester of the Laurentide Company.