

AIRCRAFT FOR FORESTRY SERVICE

AIRPLANES USED SUCCESSFULLY IN FOREST SERVICE

Firefighters Carried To Scene of Blaze and Prevent Spread of Flames.

PRINCE RUPERT, B. C., April 17.—
"Fire on the Nechako river!" The
words came distinctly out of the air.
"Where?" asked a watcher at the
forest patrol station near Prince George.
The word whirred off into the sky.
Traveling on aerial vibrations it shot
across the forests. Thirty miles away
another station caught it.
"Forty-two miles south-by-east of
Stuart lake," was the answer returned
out of the void of space.

PROMPT ON SCENE.

An airplane rose swiftly from the
Prince George station. Under full
power it skimmed through the sunlit
silence over the wilderness of spruce
and fir. Far off the three men in the
fusilage spied a cloud of smoke boiling
up from the horizon. Straight as the
flight of an arrow they steered for it.
Twenty minutes after the alarm was
sounded they were on the ground fight-
ing in the red track of the flames.

Before a strong wind the conflagra-
tion might have turned a hundred
leagues of evergreen woodland into a
black desert crowded with the gaunt
skeletons of charred trees. The timely
arrival of the fire fighters confined its
destructive sweep to the compass of
a few square miles.

Possibly a million dollars worth of
good timber had been saved by the wire-
less telephone and the airplane.

More than this had been saved. The
farm homes of settlers have transformed
the Nechako and Bulkley valleys along
the Grand Trunk Pacific railway into
garden spots. Thriving villages dot the
region. Lumbering camps and sawmills
are numerous.

All these would have been wiped out
if the flames had not been stopped in
mid-career.

Government statistics show that 390,-
000 acres of British Columbia forests
were destroyed by fire in 1920. This
represents a loss of 238,000,000 feet of
timber, valued at \$299,000. The damage
to young growth is estimated at
\$186,000, making a total loss of \$485,000.

Of the year's fires 345 or 28 per cent
were put out before they had spread over
a quarter of an acre and 391 or 31 per
cent were extinguished before they had
covered ten acres. The effectiveness
of fire fighting under modern methods
has greatly reduced losses as compared
with former years.

We have had quite a little experience in the develop-
ment of planes for use over forest areas—and
would welcome the opportunity of discussing this
experience with you and possibly adapting the use
of airplanes in the solution of your problems.

DAYTON WRIGHT COMPANY



Dayton, Ohio, U.S.A.



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WHICH WAS THE BIRTHPLACE OF AVIATION

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