

Vickers' "Viking" Makes Splendid Start in Canada

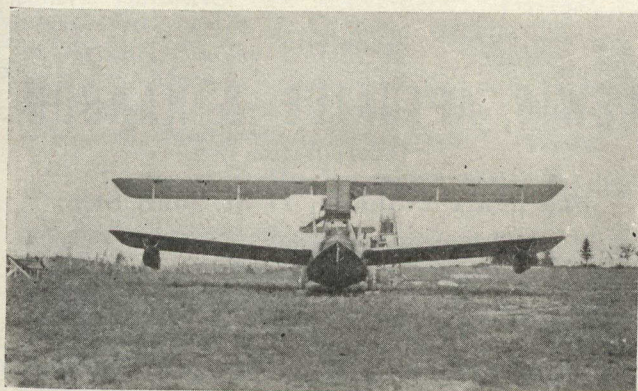
Flew More than One Thousand Miles at Average of 83.5 M. P. H.

By GEORGE A. MACKIE

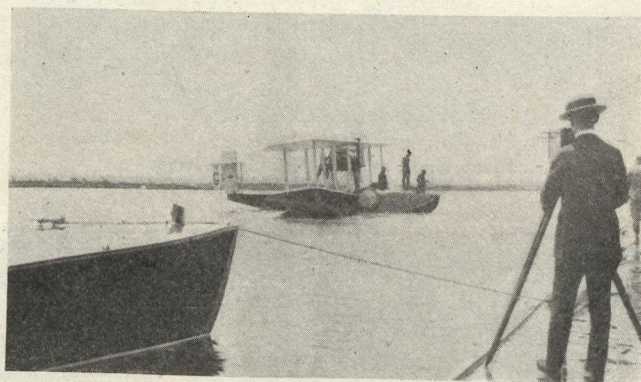
AS forecasted in the June issue of this magazine, there has recently arrived in Canada one of the justly famed Vickers' "Viking" amphibian aeroplanes, the specifications and performances of which were detailed in our previous article. The machine's record since its arrival on this side of the Atlantic would seem to justify all the splendid things which have been said and written about it in the land of its construction. An interesting feature about the machine, related to the writer by Mr. R. S. Griffith, special Vickers representative who was instrumental in supplying it to the order

The machine was taxied right into the landing wharf of the Montreal Boat Builders Limited, and after refueling left for Summerstown, a distance of some 50 miles, which was covered slightly under 50 minutes against a strong head wind. At Summerstown the party stopped at the home of Mr. Thomas Hall, remaining there for nearly two days, and then proceeding to Toronto in a fog which completely obscured the City of Toronto. The remainder of the trip from Toronto to Remi Lake via North Bay and Cochrane, a distance of 630 miles, was made in six hours' flying time.

The Vickers "Viking," a Land and Water Machine



Photographed at Lac a La Tortue



On the River at Lachine, Quebec

of the Laurentide Air Service Ltd., is that it is an exact counterpart of the machine in which the late Sir Ross Smith was to have attempted his Round-the-World Flight.

MADE EXCELLENT TIME.

The machine is at present engaged in work on behalf of the Ontario Government over the forest areas of that province, operating from Remi Lake in Northern Ontario. Its record of speed and accomplishment to date is that it flew from Lac à la Tortue, Quebec, to Remi Lake, Ont. via Montreal, Toronto and Cochrane, a distance of 1,055 miles in actual flying time of 12 hrs. and 25 mins. an average of 83.5 miles per hour for the entire journey.

The machine was received in Montreal aboard the Steamer Verentia, and trans-shipped by C. P. R. freight to La Tortue, where erection took place. From the time of arrival at La Tortue until the machine was taxied into the water for tests was a period of slightly under five days—an unusually short period for the complete erection of a machine of this size. The machine was tested by Captain Maxwell on the 7th of June and after minor adjustments and tuning up left La Tortue on the morning of June 8th, proceeding to Montreal via Three Rivers—a distance of 140 miles over road, in 1 hr. 10 mins. The personnel aboard were Thos. Hall, President of Laurentide Air Service, Ltd., Mr. Davis, Air Engineer of Messrs. Vickers Limited, England, Pilot W. R. Maxwell in charge of machine and Air Engineers I. Vachon and J. F. Hyde. At Lachine Mr. Davis left the boat, he having to return to England by an early steamer.

The important part about the entire trip was that although over 1,000 miles in length over country, a great part of which has never even been accurately mapped, only three stops were made for fuel and not a single stretch was missed from any mechanical reason. A week before, Mr. Maxwell had flown to Remi from La Tortue in an HS2L, but in that case proceeded via a route following roughly the N. T. R. through the North. In this case also the machine was forced to encounter very rough weather conditions, but these did not interfere with the trip, which was made to schedule, and, as a matter of fact, considerably ahead of the schedule of a railway train, which was also the case in the latter trip.

The Viking has already set out a number of ground parties, and, as a matter of fact, upon the second day after its arrival at the station went to Moose Factory, a flight to which by Capt. Maxwell under Winter conditions, was also described in a previous issue of this magazine.

IMPRESSIONS OF TRIP.

C. A. M. Vining, a staff reporter of the Toronto Star who made the trip from Toronto to Remi with the Vickers Amphibian party, gave some rather breezy impressions of the journey in an article recently published in that newspaper. Describing the descent of the machine at North Bay, he writes as follows: "It was a monster toboggan slide down an air chute a mile long at two miles a minute. We scudded toward the lake parallel with a wooded hill which slipped by in a second's dark streak. It was tremendously exhilarating and made