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FLYING BOAT ORDERED BY
MINISTER OF LANDS FOR
FIRE PATROL SERVICE

Development of Forest Protection by Means of Airplanes Will Provide Occupation for Many Returned Soldiers — First Machine will be Ready in Three Weeks.

The Forest Branch of the Department of Lands has entered into a contract with the Hoffer Motor-Boat Company, of Vancouver, for the construction of a "flying boat" which the Provincial Government will operate on lease for a time, with the option of purchasing it at a later date. The machine will be used for forest patrol work and hereafter, partially at any rate, British Columbia's forests will be "fire wardened" from the air. The original intention of the Minister of Lands was to lease from the Imperial Government one or two machines discarded as more or less obsolete by the naval wing of the Royal Air Force, but the character of service required of the "flying boat" in British Columbia demands a machine of special construction plus utility "trimmings" as against the appearances necessary in the fighting aeroplanes.

A Boat With Wings.

The flying boat is somewhat different from the seaplane, since it is virtually a boat with wings. The Department is advised that the machine will be completed in three weeks, when Mr. Pattullo will immediately place it in commission. A returned Canadian aviator, with an extensive knowledge of practical air work on more than one fighting front, will be entrusted with the operation of the "boat," whose proportions will admit of one passenger—a forest ranger.

With the exception of one or two features designed by Hoffer Brothers, the machine will be similar in design to those in use round the British coast for patrol work. It will have a wing spread of forty-two feet and a chord of five feet. The boat will be made of mahogany. Both aviator and observer will be seated forward of the planes, while the engine will be located overhead between the planes, and will have a thrust propeller aft, allowing unrestricted vision in front. Power will be furnished from a 100-horsepower Roberts engine capable of developing a speed of seventy-eight miles per hour, and will allow for the machine to climb to a height of 3,000 feet in ten minutes.

Will Save Timber.

The Minister of Lands has contended for some time past that forest patrol from the air would be the means of putting an end to the many large outbreaks which have been responsible for the loss of huge tracts of valuable timber. With the tell-tale swirl of smoke spotted from afar the air ranger will be in a position to summon the ground man in the shortest possible time, and where the old and slower method would require a dozen men to subdue the fire, detection in its initial stage may result in limiting destruction to the smallest proportions.

Plenty of Aviators.

One of the considerations leading Mr. Pattullo to test out the possibilities of forest patrol from the air is that a number of the staff of the forest branch are now serving in the Royal Air Force in France and on other battle fronts, so that when the war comes to an end there will be no lack of skilled aviators for the extension of the service in the event of the test trials proving the contention of the Minister.

A boat plane has been decided upon as the best and safest type of machine to carry out the tests owing to the nature of the territory to be patrolled. While there will be few landing and starting places in the interior forest sections the water channels and myriad lakes of the coast region will provide all that is necessary in this connection in the more heavily timbered areas. One of the first "observers" in the trial trips will be the Minister of Lands himself.

There was a wise Spear-woman lived in a shoe
For her many children she knew what to do;
She made them most happy with Wrigley's for all—
It kept them in trim at a cost very small!

PROHIBITION IS
EMPTYING JAILS

Prohibition and the war are depopulating the penitentiaries, declared W. P. Archibald, Dominion parole officer, in Vancouver. Since the advent of prohibition the percentage of crime has fallen off, the prison population has decreased 25 per cent. in the past four years. Laxity in the home, however, is shown in an increased number of juvenile offenders, and, Mr. Archibald declares, there is a greater need for reformatories than penitentiaries.

"Children today are not receiving proper training in the home," declared Mr. Archibald in arguing that corrective institutions are necessary. "I have never yet known a child to go wrong who had been obedient and was made to exercise self-control in his home."

During the past nineteen years Mr. Archibald said 11,097 persons had been admitted to parole from Canadian prisons, and only 2.4 per cent. of these had to be returned to jail. During the past year 883 persons were paroled, while more than 600 paroled men had gone overseas. Several of these were now officers, and two have been decorated with the D. S.O. for gallantry. During the past year more than 100 men enlisted from the penitentiaries of Canada, and are "making good."

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WHICH ROAD ?

YOU MUST CHOOSE ONE

THIS
LEADS TO

YOUR LOSS

THIS
LEADS TO

YOUR GAIN

TAKE NO CHANCES
WITH FIRES
PUT THEM OUT

"The food crisis is grave and urgent beyond the possibility of exaggeration."—Sir Robert Borden

Help To Feed Yourself

Are you only a "destroyer of rations" when you might be a food producer?

Every pound of food that can be grown in Canada and made available for export, will be desperately needed by those who are bearing the brunt of the fighting and the suffering.

The amount of food produced this year will be absolutely limited by the extent to which people in cities and towns become food producers—there is no other labor reserve.

WHERE DO YOU BELONG?

On the Farm?

Thousands of men are urgently needed on farms in this province to make possible increased production of food. Those who could go and yet hold back, should not forget that, unless production is greatly increased, hundreds of thousands of people will die of starvation.

In the War Garden?

By growing vegetables in home gardens or on vacant lots, and thus helping to feed themselves, city and town people can leave the farmers free to grow more food for export. All that is produced in this way is gain and a net addition to the national food supply.

War Garden service is not sufficient for the man whose rightful place is on the farm. But the War Garden does offer an opportunity for tens of thousands of people, whose circumstances oblige them to remain in the city, to have at least a small part as food producers. Interest the boys and girls in the War Garden, for they too can help to grow food.

If there is a garden or vacant lot movement in your community associate yourself with it. If no organization exists, do what you can to interest your neighbours in the War Garden campaign.

Write to your Provincial Department of Agriculture for additional information.

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