

Forestry Policy Probe Called Off Temporarily by B.C. Gov

VICTORIA (CP) — The provincial government has abandoned plans—for this year at least—to Chief Justice Gordon Sloan as a royal commission to delve once again into forestry policy in British Columbia.

An authoritative source said Premier W. A. C. Bennett and the Chief Justice could not come to an agreement on the nature of the enquiry, and the idea now has been dropped.

The Premier, it is understood, was thinking in terms of a short inquiry when he asked Chief Justice Sloan to act. Premier Bennett wanted the probe to deal mainly with troublesome aspects of the forest management plan.

Chief Justice Sloan, it is said, was not interested in undertaking the limited task. He felt the job wouldn't be worthwhile doing—or necessary—unless he could investigate all phases of forest policy as he had done previously.

This might have taken two years, and from a political viewpoint was distasteful to the government which wants some definite action on the contentious issue before the election next year.

Reasons the proposal has been dropped appear twofold:

1. Appointment of a royal commission inquiry which would take two years to complete would leave the government open to criticism that it was sidestepping the issue.

2. The government's hands would be tied once the inquiry started. It couldn't make changes while the probe was underway.

Consequently, the government now is expected to tackle some phases of the problem itself, and thus be able to point out to the forest management plan's critics some definite improvements taken by the new administration.

B.C. Highway Toll Climbs

VICTORIA (CP) — British Columbia's highway accident toll continues to climb dizzily.

The Motor-Vehicle Branch reported today during the first eight months of 1952, 12,479 highway crashes killed 119 persons, injured 4,292 persons and resulted in property damage totalling \$3,671,442.

In the same period last year, there were 11,717 accidents, 118 deaths, 3,945 injuries and \$3,166,373 property damage.

To the end of August this year 299,269 motor-vehicles were licensed to use the highways, compared with 275,283 in the same period in 1951.

Alpinists Foiled Near B.C. Peak

VANCOUVER (CP) — Six men and a dog were foiled by just 75 feet from the top of the nearest 10,000-foot mountain in the United States border.

Leader of the party, Neal Carter, chairman of the Vancouver section of the Club of Canada, Ontario, were Miss Alfreda Pugh, Melville, Ian Kay, Fred Tom Mardsen and David Gilbert, 120 miles from they chartered a plane head of Butte Inlet, trucking six miles to a station began the climb.

Southgate River, each of two heavily-loaded packs. The mountain was inland, said Carter, was terrible. We had our way through for a time, then clear up as we went back for a pack.

"That 15 miles took us to reach the summit broke camp before dawn climbed all day and it was 7 p.m. when they reached snow-dome that seemed Mount Gilbert.

"We were bitterly disappointed," said Carter. "The summit was 75 feet from main one, and separated by 500 yards of knife-pinnacles. It would have us a day to cross."

The climbers had no time and decided to return to civilization.

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