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Forest fires hard blow to economy

T was encouraging to report that the general closure of the coastal area of Prince Rupert Forest district was lifted at midnight August 4.

While the 18-day closure made headlines, it was more blithe to print that the forest fires in the Prince Rupert district were under control.

Even though this district had experienced the least fires as of August S in the province with 231 compared to 1,189 in the Vancouver district, 742 in Kamloops, followed by Prince George with 434 and Nelson with 326, the closure which put more than 125 men out of work was a hard blow to the economy of this area.

cost-free holiday. A release from B.C. Forest Service

When rights conflict

ROM the remoteness of the prairies The Winnipeg Free Press has assailed Prime Minister Diefenbaker for intervening in the west coast strike of CPR ferries. Editorially the Free Press says that the government drifted into its decision to take over the ferries "under pressure from its members in British Columbia, and against its own better judgment." That may be correct, for after 10 weeks of inaction the government could scarcely be acissue of intervention the Winnipeg paper offers this rebuke:

"The strike is painful to the people of Vancouver Island and other west coast spots. But the fact remains that in our society workers have the right to strike... It is not up to any government to decide whether the use people make_of_that right is wise. For the federal government to take away the right to strike is to use the power of the state against the steamship employees. There is no justification for

No justification? Perhaps if the Free Press were a part of the coast community it might feel differently about this. The right to strike is, as the paper says, fundamental to a free and fair economy. But here is something else. There is public necessity. To understand what that means in the case of transportation it is necessary to experience the isolation of an island when its vital connections with the sources of trade are severed. Winnipeg can never be cut off from the rest of Canada. If the railways strike there are always the highways. But an

forest service an average of \$100,000 per day to protect its valuable forest lands throughout the province during the last week of July. It was also pointed out that at this

in Victoria disclosed that it cost the

time last year, the total costs were \$128,601, or one-eighteenth of the current total.

We are reminded to take every fire precaution for even the rain isn't as wet as we think. We are also reminded that 40 cents of every dollar circulating in British Columbia is occasioned through its forests.

And we are reminded that only by protecting our forests can the camper enjoy the beauty, the seclusion and the

island economically cannot survive for long without ferries. For the right of the seamen to strike, millions of dollars were paid out of the pockets of the citizens of this community.

Rights are hard to assess when one of them comes into conflict with another. Morally if not specifically the federal government was required under the terms of Confederation to uphold the rights of this Island to communication with the rest of Canada. If cused of moving in haste. But on the there is to be any criticism of Mr. Diefenbaker's action it is on the score that he took so long to acknowledge that responsibility.

> How else was he to have done so than by ordering the strikers back to work? There was an alternative. The government could—and many believe should—have manned the ferries from the navy, using men of the armed services as strike breakers. It chose instead to operate the ferries with their own crews, under orders, thereby assuring them of the restoration of wages which, while somewhat less than those demanded, at least are a good deal better than strike pay.

By doing this the government of course knowingly laid itself open to the kind of rebuke administered by the Free Press and the labor organizations. It is always easy to criticize from a position of security when drastic measures are taken to meet an emergency somewhere else but can the Free Press suggest a third course of action which would in every respect have preserved the rights of strikers and the equally fundamental right of -The Victoria Colonist.

REPORT By FRANK HOWARD, M.P.

Three important developments took place this past week in Ottawa. One was an unprecedented move, another related to the activities of the past Liberal Government and the third to the activities of the present govern-

The unprecedented move was that of the Committee of the House which was considering the estimates of the Department of Defence. The committee reported to the House making a series of far recommendations concerning our defence,

Usually when committees report their activities to the House they don't make too many recommendations, and those that are made are rather innocuous ones not designed to promote any controversy of imply and criticism of the government.

The Defence Estimates Committee, though, brushed aside all of these past practices and set out on a new and bold path.

This path should lead this nation into a position of being able to properly assess, contributions to the defence of Canada. Certainly Art Smith (MP Calgary South), who was chairman of the committee, indicated in his report that we need to take a long and searching look at our defence program.

These recommendations ranged all the way from the multi-million dollar CF-105 aircraft, through to integration of certain parts of the three services, into the field of service colleges, and ended up with some comments on the degree of inefficiency within the Defence Depart-

The Public Accounts Committee has been reviewing government expenditures of the past few years and in particular has been concentrating on the new buildings of the Queen's Printer. This amazing story reminds one of a fairy story for certainly we would not expect such things. to happen in real life.

The new premises for the Queen's Printer were started some 10 years ago and are not finished yet. Originally the project was to take three

The original cost was estimated at \$6,000,000 and expenditures are already in the neighborhood of \$17,000,000. A contract for the excava-

tion was let for \$55,000 and the contractor ultimately got \$238,695. The excavation work was done without proper boring tests being made for the foundations. After the first floor was poured it was discovered that the site was over a subterranean creek and another floor had to be built on top of this. Today there is a creek running between the first floor and the sub-floor and it has to be pumped out regularly.

This monument to the former Liberal government has so far cost the taxpayers millions of dollars more than it

The third item of general interest relates to the civil service. In 1918, when the present Civil Service Act was first introduced it was supposed to take all civil servants out of the field of political

tion of patronage.

Since that time, however, a number of changes have been made. We now have at least 12,000 employees of the Fedoral Government that are subject to political pressure. Twelve thousand jobs which could be filled with political appointments. I'm not saying that they are or will be, but merely that there is room there for political patronage. This can be changed by merely bringing these employees in the jurisdiction of the Civil Service Act.

Some readers of this column may think that it was an unwise thing for me to have walked out of a committee meeting in protest over the things that the committee was doing. However, subsequent events proved that both Erhart Regier and I did the correct thing. When the committee reported to the House I presented a motion that the Bill over which we walked out of the Committee be referred back to the Committee for further study. The House accepted our motion and the Bill went back again for reconsideration. This, in opinion, was what should have happened in the first place. The committee should have asked that it be referred back, because a Committee has no right to reverse a previous decision once it has been taken on a particular bill.

Northland challenge

From The Calgary Herald Recent optimism and planning for northern development has been met on many sides with a scepticism that almost borders on alarm.

No doubt a good deal of this comes from political opponents of the Prime Minister, who has been one of the great advocates of hastening the development of the north.

Some of it, possibly, is just the natural caution of some Canadians who would develop Canada for us—when it was convenient for them.

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Riot traced to liquor discrimination From The Vancouver Sun wins. Although an Indian risks Stupidity of B.C.'s liquor rebeing arrested for public drunstrictions against Indians got

frightening proof in Prince Rupert on Saturday night. A drinking law that encourages Indians to "tank up" in beer parlors underlay the

riot there. Surely the provincial government can't allow this shocking event to end merely with the trial of those arres-

The whole system that produced it requires overhaul at the next session of the legislature. Indians, should get the same liquor privileges as

other B.C. residents. All enlightened opinion holds that the notion that Indians can't handle liquor as well as whites is a myth. Yet the opinion prevails that Indians must be restricted in. access to alcohol.

Until 1951 access was completely banned in B.C. Then, along with the vote, B.C. permitted Indians to drink in beer parlors and later in pub-

But Indians are still forbidden to buy liquor at government stores or to possess it in their homes. So the tendency is to drink excessively in beer parlors and to get into trouble as a result. In smaller B.C. towns such drinking tends to concentrate on week-

Even where trouble doesn't burst into mob violence it degrades Indians. And it perpetuates the myth that, by race. Indians are problem drinkers.

All evidence indicates that the real problem is a law that makes an Indian choose between over-drinking in a beer parlor or furtive, bootleg drinking at home, which is just as bad.

Beer parlor excess usually

kenness, this is not as serious an offence as having liquor at

The system also bullds the Indians' resentment of discrimination. This undoubtedly helped to fire the trouble in Prince Rupert. Police become symbols of injustice to Indians who feel they're treated unfairly under the liquor laws, then are specially singled out for police attention if they drink even in legal fashion.

recognized the injustice and harm of restricting the Indians' access to liquor. Nearly two years ago it lifted all restraints, leaving pro-

The federal government has

vincial governments free to give Indians full liquor priv-

B.C. has failed to widen the Indians' privileges. There should be no further delay.

This elementary justice is wholly supported by the study, "The Indians of British Columbia," published this year! by a distinguished team of scientists from the University of B.C.

"It would remove at one blow the special hold of the bootlegger on the Indian It would remove the major reason for the Indians to asay sert that there is still discrimination in Canadian law... and social practice," the scientists found.

Love is blind; friendship tries not to notice. -Otto Eduard Bismarck



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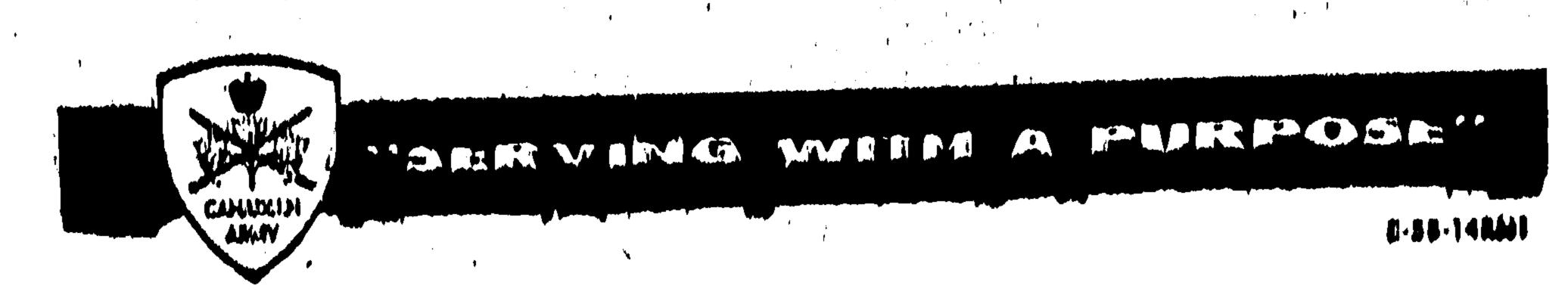
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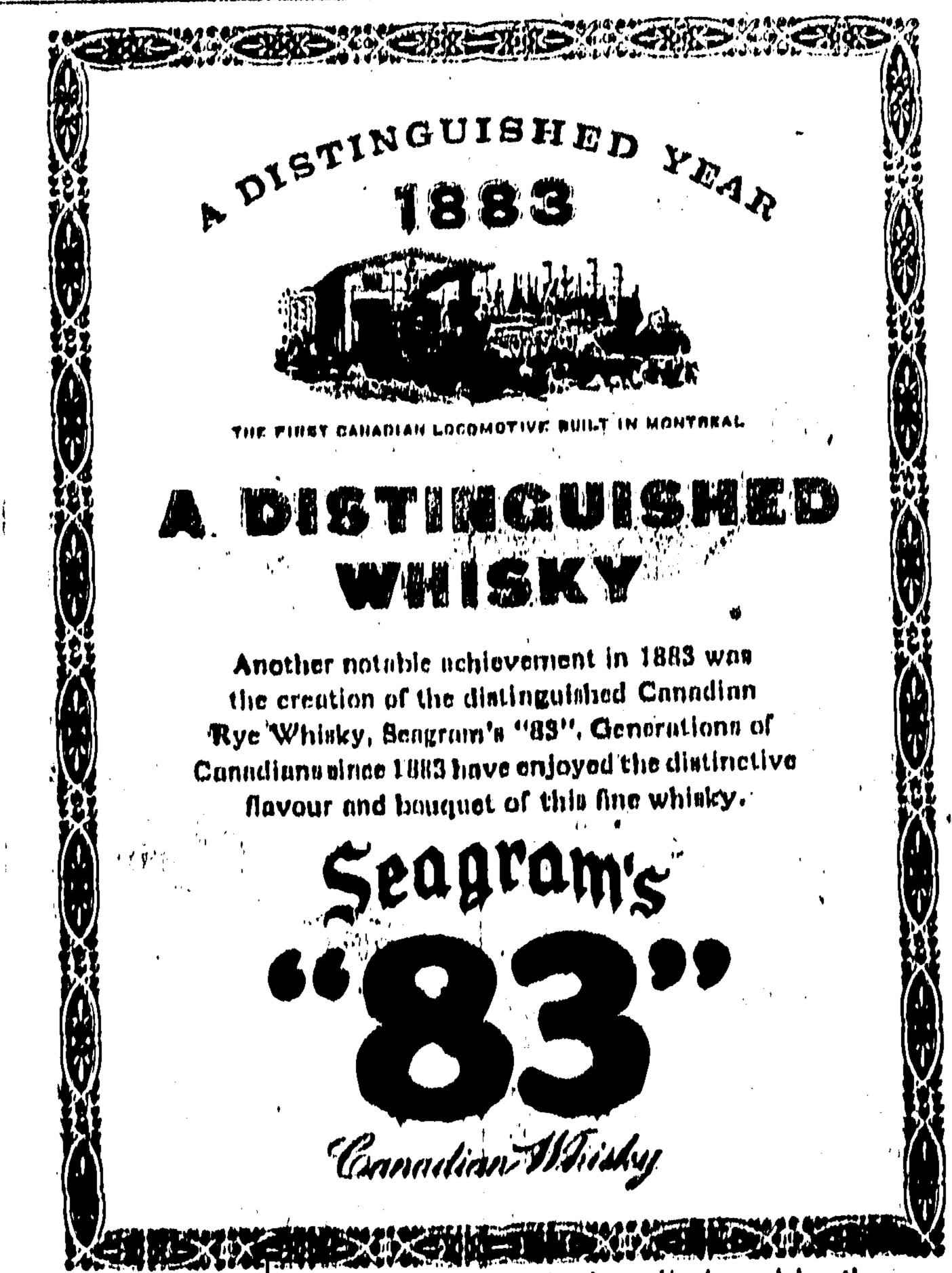
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INTERPRETING THE NEWS

British approve Macmillan's bold move

can haually count on gaining the admiration of the British public. The accuracy of this political truism has rarely been better demonstrated than by the publishireaction to Prime Minister Macmillan's deliberately sepetacular gesture in journaying to Athens and Ankara to discuss the Cyprus

Win or lose, a man who gambles boldly

Despite considerable reservations about the possible results of the gamble, British newspapprs and the British public in general appear virtually unanimous in feeling that it has been

one worth taking.

A MAN WHO TRIES Labor party officials are the first to admit that the prime minister's surprise decision to visit Circoce and Turkey has captured the imagination of the public. Baid one official: "He in obviously trying to onse that tonsion in Cyprus and you can't culticize a man for trying."

motore deaving for the Gradk and Turkish ontitule. Maamillan said his chief aim was to achieve a permanent consulton of violence in Cyprus. He did not take with him any new political plan for the island and did not expect to achieve any detailed new agreement during

his journey. who auouss of the visits to Athons and Ankara vill largoly dogund on whether he has ween which to convince the two governments to In trammakanda, orth rat anola, chilitest tragenn violomon as a political support, there appears little likelihood of re-establishing order in Cyprus, where strike between Greeks and Turks

has claimed more than 150 lives during the last

two months. On the other hand, if Maemillan's visit results in a tripartite condemnation of violence, then he will have gone a long way toward gaining the "cooling off" period which is a key provision of the British plan for Cyprus drafted last June by Governor Sir Hugh Foot.

The general acclaim that has greeted the psime minister's journey to the coastern Med-Iterranean demonstrates his ability to give a sense of occasion and a feeling of success to both his country and his party. This ability to project an impression of

chearful confidence is undoubtedly one of the factors behind the gradual swing of electoral opinion in favor of the Conservative party that has been in evidence in Britain in recent

PATIENT FIRMNESS

Another factor has been Macmillan's deft handling of the summit mosting negotiations with Promier Khruschev of Russia. His con-'also, clear motes to the Russian leader and the patience and firmness he has shown in I answering summit' questions in the Commons high given apposition members little opportunity to oriticiun.

mount the apparent collapse of megoliations For summit talks has brought little consuro In Macmillan's word. The general feeling in Britain appours to be that he is sincere in his Dompressed destro to reach the summit, The Itanilancy in London is to blame the United States and Russia for summit delays rather Than the British government.