SUMMARY OF CHART "A"

1938

3.	Number of Fires		2410
4.	On. V.C.L. etc.		1444
5.	On A.P. & P.R. etc.		966
6.	Cost Fires		1396
7.	Non Cost Fires		1014
8.	Cost to Forest Branch	$	454,257.
9.	Cost to other parties.		153,822.
10.	Total area burned over		709,317 acres
11.	Total damage done	$	2,229,144.
	Merchantable Timber		
12.	Net area killed		91,185 acres
13.	Volume killed M.B.M.		1,046,341 M.B.F.
14.	Volume salvable		400,527 M.B.F.
15.	Net stumpage loss	$	818,189.
	Immature Timber.		
16.	Net area killed		113,930 acres
17.	Present value	$	522,045.
	Not Satisfactorily Restocked.		
18.	Logged		41,040 acres
19.	Logged and burned		76,514 acres
20.	Burned		114,029 acres
21.	Damage	$	107,805.
	Non Commercial Cover.		
22.	Area burned		161,391 acres
23.	Damage	$	69,373.
	Grazing Land.		
24.	Area burned		40,676 acres
25.	Damage	$	2,021.
	Non Productive Sites.		
26.	Area burned		70,350 acres
27.	Damage	$	34,545.
	Other Forms of Property.		
28.	Forest products	$	414,775.
29.	Buildings.		88,811.
30.	Railway Logging Equipment, etc.		145,899.
31.	Miscellaneous.		25,683.

Causes.

32.	Lightning	703	29.2%
33.	Campers and travellers	442	18.4
34.	Railroads operating	72	3.0
35.	Smokers	522	21.4
36.	Brush burning	180	7.6
37.	Road, power, construction, etc.	4	.2
38.	Industrial	76	3.2
39.	Incendiary	121	5.0
40.	Miscellaneous known causes	238	9.8
41.	Unknown causes.	52	2.2
		2410	100.0%

Note: Forest Branch costs subject to revision due to claims yet to be settled.

C
O
P
Y

December 29, 1938.

File: 027313.

Memorandum to the Honourable the Minister of Lands.

Attached is a summary of fire statistics for 1938. As a few cases are still pending, these statistics are subject to revision as settlement is made.

The following comparisons may be of interest:

Number of Fires..... 2410
145% of average last ten years.

Cost to Forest Branch .....$ 454,247.
256% of average last ten years.

Cost to other parties .....$ 153,822.
630% of 1938 figure.

Total Damage .....$ 2,229,144.
325% of average last ten years.

Merchantable Timber (volume) killed .....1,046,541 M.
335% of average last ten years.

Area burned over ..... 709.317 acres
157% of average last ten years.

Chief Forester.

EEG:J
encl.

FIRE

FILE CLOSED

Year 1938

District Vancouver

Fire Number 230

PRELIMINARY FINAL ONLY

163

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.	FOREST BRANCH.	DEPARTMENT OF LANDS.

FINAL FIRE REPORT.

Preliminary Report No.

District Fire No. 230

FOREST DISTRICT VANCOUVER

1. NAME OF FIRE Bloedel Date fire started July 5, 1938

2. AREA OF ORIGIN.—Lot 145 Blk "B" P.R. T.S.X. V.C.L.

Nearest town, river, stream, or lake Between Gosling & Boot Lakes

Land District Sayward Ownership Bloedel, Stewart & Welch Atlas Ref. 44-A-4

Provincial Forest, if any part burned during fire

3. Was the area occupied at the time the fire occurred? Give particulars Yes. The Bloedel Stewart & Welch Co. were logging on this area

4. ASSISTANCE WITHOUT PAY --

5. PUBLIC ROADMEN.—Name of Foreman -- No. of men employed

Has District Engineer been notified?

6. CAUSE Known / Probable Unknown

7. PROPERTY PROTECTED Timber values in the form of felled and bucked, cold decks and standing timber

8. COST.

Estimated Paid by FOREST BRANCH. $	c.	Paid by Other parties $	c.	Paid by Comm. Co. $	c.	Paid by Gen. Rev. $	c.	TOTALS. $	c.
170,000	00	Not yet available		14723	22	22789	83	148754	48

9. DAMAGE.

	Net Area burned, Acres.	Amount Killed. M.B. Ft.	Cords.	Lin. Ft.	Amount Killed but Salvable. M.B. Ft.	Cords.	Lin. Ft. @ $4/M	Total Net Stumpage Loss. $ c.	Value of Damage to Area and other Property. $ c.
Merchantable timber	15,690	459,600		-80%	367,680		MBM	367,680.00	
Immature timber	8,300							61,480.00	
Not satisfactorily restocked— Logged	6,740								3,370.00
Logged and burned	30,000								15,000.00
Burned	20								10.00
Non-commercial cover	8,605								4,302.50
Grazing or pasture land	80								4.00
Non-productive sites	5,060								2,530.00
(A) Totals	74,495							429,160.00	25,216.50
Forest products cut		See attached sheet							9962.50
Buildings		p.167							
Logging Rly. and Equip't		p.184							84950
Miscellaneous		p.415							179512.50
(B) Totals									106,982.50
Grant Total (A) and (B)									787,325.00

If the forest cover is only partially killed, is remaining stand scattered throughout?, or in isolated blocks?

...ble timber, total volume left alive within fire boundaries shown on map M.B.M. Could it be logged?

percentage of original stand left alive %, is it still satisfactorily stocked?

637-6716

3

10. ACTION TAKEN.	Date.	Hour.
Time Fire started: Known—Probable (Delete one.)	July 5	4.10 p.m.
Discovered by Company smoke chaser (Note discovery by L.O. whether first or not.)	"	4.20 "
Reported by " " " (Note report by L.O. whether first or not.)	"	4.30 "
Reported to Hqts camp 4 Bloedels Menzies Bay	"	"
185 (No.) Fire-fighters left for fire (first crew)		
Actual fire-fighting began	"	6.00 P.M.
Fire controlled considered as such	Aug 1st	
Fire out End of patrol		

Name of Officer in charge C.J.Haddon

Length of control-line built 300 (Estimate given by private surveyor) Miles

Maximum number of men employed at any one time 1500

	Dates.	Hours.
Forest Officers' time on fire Varying number of officers thruout the life of the fire		

11. CONDITIONS (at time fire-fighting began) :—

Hazard Stick Record

Humidity (Place and time if within 20 miles.) Temperature

Wind (*see* Manual, page 47) Light N. West

Slope Exposure

Forest type Fir-Hemlock-Cedar type

Ground cover and debris Slash, felled and bucked and cold decks

Character of fire: Ground Surface Yes Crown

Size of fire when discovered spot acres. When attacked 5 acres acres.

Accessibility (Give details) Fire supposedly started in the face of a cold deck pile in the centre of an area of felled and bucked & cold decks

12. RESPONSIBILITY FOR COST OF FIRE Forest Branch expenditures and accepted claims by F.P.Fund, Bloedel Stewart & Welch expenditures by that company.

(Sgd.) {Patrolman. Asst. Ranger. (Sgd.) , Ranger.

(Sgd.) C.C.Ternan, Supervisor. Asst. District Forester

Write separate history report on F.B. 144A when necessary to explain expenditure and progress of fire-fighting or recommendations. This report must be accompanied by a map of the fire on Form F.B. 351.

13. DISTRICT FORESTER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

See attached history reports

See map & ~~Final~~ Forest Survey's synopsis as forwarded from your office.

Approved Oct 19, 1938 , Dis

4

SEPARATE HISTORY.

14. Give here any information relating to the fire which is not provided for on other sheet. Describe briefly the general progress of fire-fighting and difficulties to overcome in handling this fire in order to explain expenditures. Insert any further recommendations you wish to make. State action taken by all Forest Officers concerned. Attach copy of any written instructions in connection with fire. Where fire escaped from fire under permit, attach copy of permit

See attached diaries of different forest officers

15. F.B. EQUIPMENT.—No. and make of pump

No. of pump-hours Gas used Oil used Grease used

Cost per hour Total cost Equipment lost

Total value

16. Food Supplies:—

Supplies purchased $

Supplies transferred from $

Total purchases $

Less supplies on hand $

Net purchases $

Disposition of supplies on hand

★F.B. 144A—7M (25)-737-7444

Vancouver, B.C.

August 2, 1938.

O. Fire No. 230, Bloedel

Enclosed please find two bills covering disbursements made on the above while at Courtenay recently.

Overwaitea Ltd...	$ -.27
H. Kangas	6.00
	$ 6.27

Please have cheque made payable to the writer and forwarded at your convenience.

T.A. Simmons,
for Forester.

TAS:J
encls 2.

0131739

Vancouver, B.C.

August 1, 1938.

OF #230--Bloedel

Some days ago we had a request from the Labour Department for a list of the crew of Vancouver men sent up for employment on the Bloedel Fire. This list was promised to me by phone either by the Vancouver office or someone at Campbell River. In the stress of the moment I neglected to make a note of the matter. We do not appear to have received the list and would request your early attention.

C.D. Orchard,
Asst. Chief Forester.

CDO:KR

0131739.

To The Chief Forester,

Parliament Buildings,

VICTORIA, B. C.

Your File: 013137

Refer to yours of

My File: OF #230, Bloedel

Attention Mr. Orchard

With reference to your memorandum of August 1st, you will please find attached a list of the crew of Vancouver men sent up by the Employment Bureau to Campbell River on the Bloedel Fire.

It seems a rather strange thing to me that the Labour Department did not make this request direct to their own Employment Agency.

C. J. Haddon,
District Forester.

CJH.JM
Encl.

8

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OF CANADA

MEN SHIPPED TO FORESTRY BRANCH, CAMPBELL RIVER, THE NIGHT OF JULY 15, 1938:

Anderson, C.
Aubrey, J.L.
Abramyk, J.
Arts, R.
Anderson, Wm.
Allen, R.
Andrew J.
Anderson, N.

Brown, H.
Banks, M.
Burrows, H.R.
Beauvais, P.
Burton, P.
Bastien, J.
Bailey, Wm.
Britton, J.T.
Berg, Geo.
Bowser, Wm.
Blakey, R.W.
Brown, C.M.
Bell, B.
Beck, R.
Bell, P.
Bergman, N.
Bridger, W.
Barry, E.J.
Belanger, B.

Campbell, C.
Clark, A.
Crummer, H.
Crossan, J.
Cowling, F.
Cake, J.E.
Clairmont, R.
Crawford, W.
Chatfield, H.
Cullen, J.
Campbell, L.
Carlson, R.
Cock, L.P.
Conway, P.
Cairns, C.T.

Dairs, D.
Downton, J.
Dyer, A.
Derry, F.
Downie, R.
Dalton, J.T.
Davies, V.J.
Dennison, B.
Day, H.
Doyle, Thos.
Donahue, Jas.
Davidson, L.

Easton, H.
Everrard, H.

Forkey, J.
Francoeur, L.
Fitzgerald, D.
Fitzgerald, J.
Foster, D.S.
Fletcher, G.
Farrar, F.
Fowler, W.

Guest, J.H.
Gibson, A.
Gold, Abe
Greyer, A.
Goodfellow, J.

Hoffman, C.
Hortak, S.
Henry, J.W.
Halyson, L.
Hortack, P.
Hoolgaard, M.
Harkness, A.C.
Hendry, C.G.
Hartley, B.
Hood, J.
Hill, E.A.
Hergert, C.
Haywood, J.T.
Hand, F.J.
Hallock, J.
Halyson, L.
Hall, Jas.
Harane, G.
Hughes, J.

Ivey, Geo.

Johnson, E.
Johnson, Edwin
Johnson, Carl.
Jarvis, J.
Jackson, J.
Jakovac, M.
Johnstone, K.
Jackson, J.
Johnson, W.R.
Joyce, C.
Johnson, C.
Jarvis, R.
Johnson, J.
Johnson, L.
Jones, M.

Kuntz, E.
Kozak, Wm.
Keappoch, Thos.
Kop, Sulo

Lagerstrom, J.
Lee, G.W.

Men shipped to Campbell River, July 15, 1938.

[illegible]urin, A.
[illegible]erdale, C.L.
[illegible]et, W.

Milne, B.
Marstein, O.
Munro, A.
Mayo, G.
Meredith, W.
Morrison, J.M.
Marshall, H.T.
Moscrop, S.
Matwyo, D.
Murphy, J.P.
Moshewski, L.
Macknek, J.
Marshall, H.
Menzies, G.

MacDonald, Alvin
McLean, R.
MacKay, G.R.
McGregor, G.
McClintock, W.
McDonald, A.
McLeod, D.
McCabe, H.
McDonald, G.
McGarva, D.
McManus, D.
McLeod, Wm. J.
McIntyre, J.
McBurney, A.
McVicar, L.

Novar, S.
Nelson, O.
Nunley, F.O.

Ostram, A.
O'Connell, E.
Olson, D.
Ovens, A.

Person, F.
Paul, P.
Paulson, G.
Pierson, E.
Peirrard, Henry.

Quinn, J.

Roach, J.
Rigby, A.
Rourke, J.
Reynolds, J.L.
Rotvold, E.K.
Reinonen, A.
Reece, F.H.
Raney, A.W.
Rysko, E.
Robinson, Thos.

Sullivan, P.
Sharpe, R.C.
Spilak, L.
Sparling, E.
Smith, N.W.
Spence, J.
Swales, J.
Stata, L.E.
Stearn, T.
Smith, L.
Suominen, E.
Smith, L.
Saunders, T.
Starko, Steve
Smith, J.
Smith, S.
Stein, A.
Schauber, Carl.

Thomson, J.
Thornicroft, B.
Trevillion, G.
Toal, J.
Taylor, E.
Taylor, H.
Thornton, W.
Tracey, J.
Tingley, J.P.
Theriault, E.
Thompson, J.

Vickery, C.
Vasloff, Wm.
Vickers, W.
Veitch, J.
Van Dyke, H.

Webster, C.
Wood, W.H.
Wells, L.
Watson, T.H.
Waite, W.
Warren, R.
Williams, A.
Williamson, J.
Wilson, C.L.
Wensrich, A.C.
Wilson, A.
Wills, N.

Zannin, S.

TOTAL: 212 Men

10

August 6, 1938.
File: 0131739.

Memorandum to Mr. E.W. Griffith, Administrator,
Unemployment Relief.

.....

Enclosed, herewith, roster of men shipped by the Employment Service in Vancouver to the Campbell River fire on July 15th, as requested.

We are sorry for the delay in supplying this list which was occasioned by the extra load of work in our Vancouver office on the score of fires.

C.D. Orchard,
Ass't. Chief Forester.

CDO:J
encl

Vancouver, B.C. August 8, 1938.

OF #240--Bloedel

For your attention I am enclosing accounts for the Vancouver Island Coach Lines, Ltd., which please deal with in the usual way.

Geo. P. Melrose,
Forester.

GPM:KR
Encl.

0131739.

MEMORANDUM TO

The Chief Forester

Victoria, B.C.

REFER TO YOURS OF

★ 10M-138-9915

12

1309042

FROM FOREST RANGER

Courtenay, B.C. B.C.

August 7 1938

My File:

Your File:

LANDS DEPARTMENT
Forest Branch
AUG 9 - 1938
VICTORIA, B.C.

Dear Mr Manning,

0131739

With reference to the information you desired regarding the effect of the Bloedel Fire on game birds and animals, I have the following to submit.

Harold Carter, Foreman at Campbell River:-

The attitude of the deer at the approach of the fire was to head for the nearest swamp, and remain there. While backfirng from an established fire line, 8 deer driven by the main fire ran into a small swamp between the two fires; an attempt was made to drive them out, but failed, and the one avenue of escape was quickly cut off by the fire which completely burned the swamp.

Mr Carter believes that the loss in bird life was higher than the animals, since the young birds were only able to fly short stretches of from 50 to 100 feet at a time. He noticed that while some birds escaped during the day; practically none did so at night, they appeared to be blind, and in most cases flew directly into the fire.

A curious fact noticed by everyone was that the grouse would fly up and hover at an altitude of 50 or 60 feet, and would then suddenly dart into the fire as if a sudden draught had caught them.

file EEM

EMORANDUM TO

FROM FOREST RANGER

.....B.C.

.....19.....

My File:

Your File:

EFER TO YOURS OF

★ 10M-138-9915

Freeman King.

On the night of July 19, noticed 4 deer runn into a swamp in front of the fire which quickly advanced across it. When last seen the deer were jumping up and down in a very agitated manner.

At Forbes Landing on July 15th, 2 bucks ran down to the river in front of the fire, then turned and ran back into the fire; they screamed when the fire was reached , so were probably killed.

King has had a crew in the Quinsam-Elk Falls area picking up tools left behind; this crew reports finding burned bodies of deer all through this area. Many grouse have been noticed with the toes burned off, and several deer with burned patches on their bodies.

D.B. Taylor

Reported counting 75 deer in one group in a gully near the Brown Co. Road in the old Bloedel slash; they stood helpless at the edge of the fire, and milled around, making no attempt to escape; the fire flanked them, and since none came out, it is assumed that all were killed.

Taylor reports that many deer were trapped in the section of timber between McIvor Lake, and the Brown operation; in this sector, the fire spotted ahead into the slash over the tops of

the trees, thus the deer that retreated into the timber at this point had no avenue of escape, and were trapped.

He also reports seeing a bear at the Tsolum River bridge with forepaws burned so badly that it whimpered every time it set ~~xxxfoxx~~ one down .

Game Warden Harvey

Reports that on blow-up days, the grouse had no chance, since they did not seem to be able to move out of the fire area quickly enough. When the fire was burning more slowly there a appeared to be little lossx in life. He noticed that grouse appearred to be more affected by the smoke than the others; they seemed to be stupified, which possibly explains why they flew directly into the fire.

A big loss in deer, especially fawns was noted in the Quinsam area; recent surveys encountered ver y few tracks.

It was noted thatx the habit of the deer was to head for the nearest swamp at the approach of the fire, and failing swamps, for the nearest ravine or gully. They did not appear to be affected by smoke to the same extent as the grouse; they were crippled more by burned feet. When the fire was in the blow-up stage, ~~and~~ or when the swamps were dry, their cover was of no value; Harvey reports finding 3 swamps where the deer were

MEMORANDUM TO 4

FROM FOREST RANGER

.....B.C.

.....19.....

My File:

Your File:

REFER TO YOURS OF

★ 10M-138-9915

burned to death.

More deer survived in the Camp 3 area, than in the other sections due to the many large,wet swamps which did not burn and hence afforded excellent cover.

Very few orphans have been found, since the fawns were more liable to be burned than the mothers.

The question of feed for the grouse is very important; Harvey believes that attempting to feed them grain would be disastrous, since this is not their natural feed, and would probably kill them. He can not as yet offer an alternative.

A.C.C. Langstroth.

Reports that the damage to grouse in the Quinsam area was veryb high; He has noticed the remains of several coveys that had huddled together as they were caught by the fire. At the present time there are a few old grouse who survived the fire, but whose coveys were lost.

The strong smell at various points along the road to Forbes Landing would seem to indicate the presence of dead deer.

These men are all that I have been able to get any satisfactory information from; and I trust that this will be O.K.

With reference to the speed of the fire, on blow-up

MEMORANDUM TO 5

FROM FOREST RANGER 8

.....B.C.

.....19.....

My File:

Your File:

REFER TO YOURS OF

★ 10M-138-9915

days, the fire advanced from 8 to 10 miles per day; as compared with 1 to 2 for ordinary days. In the areas covered by the blow-up, nothing survived.

I.C. MacQueen

Vast B.C. Timber Area Is Menaced By Forest Fires

"Tinder-dry Woods Are Like Dynamite," Warns B. C. Chief Forester As More Outbreaks Reported.

BIG LOGGING CAMP IN PERIL

(By Canadian Press.)

VICTORIA, July 15.—The fire hazard in British Columbia's forests is so serious that forestry officials are considering the need of an outright ban against people going into the woods in some places on Vancouver Island.

"We have several big fires burning now and the rest of the woods are like dynamite," said E. C. Manning, chief forester, today.

"It would take just the dropping of one match to start another thing like the great Merville fire.

KEEP OUT OF WOODS.

"Conditions in the woods are very seriously disturbing," the chief forester added.

"While this situation exists, it is a good idea for people to keep out of the woods entirely. Fishermen and berry pickers, however careful they are, constitute a certain menace when the woods are so dry."

With four fires raging in the Vancouver forest district, no relief was in sight today for logging operators and government forestry officers. They report that westerly winds, combined with high barometer and low humidity conditions, have increased the fire hazard.

Nearly a quarter of a million feet of felled and bucked timber was destroyed in a fire, which broke out Wednesday on the logging operations of De Long Brothers, on Salmon Arm of Sechelt Inlet. The blaze, covering an area of more than 400 acres, has spread over rough mountainous country.

MORE MEN RUSHED.

A crew of twenty men, all that were available in the district, is attempting to build fire guards on either side of the blaze, which is one of the worst in the history of the district.

There were no signs of getting the fire under control this morning, and more men are being rushed to Sechelt to aid in the battle.

Sechelt community is not threatened by the blaze, and there are no houses or buildings in the danger area.

A Grouse Mountain fire, also blamed on berry pickers, was extinguished after covering ten acres.

SEATTLE, July 15.—(AP)—One man was missing, a rural home was destroyed, many persons were treated for burns and inflamed eyes and a few were evacuating Ryderwood, "world's largest logging camp," threatened by a 15,000-to-20,000-acre forest fire today.

A brisk wind whipped the blaze out of control early today, after it had swept 8000 acres of an old "burn" in logged-off land the last two days.

Province
July 15-'38

Fires Unchecked As 1000 Combat Island Outbreaks

Hope Wanes of Halt to Forest Blaze in Campbell River Area Over Week-end.

200 MEN RUSHED FROM CITY

Province July 17

(See pictures and Maps on Page 6.)

By TORCHY ANDERSON.

MORE than a thousand men, fatigued from lack of sleep, grimy with sweat and dust, red-eyed from acrid smoke, fought forest fires today in British Columbia and saw little chance of a slackening in the flaming advance during the week-end.

Forestry branch and private logging companies have flung more than 700 men into the fighting line in the direct line between Campbell River town and Forbes Landing.

C. J. Haddon, district forester in Vancouver, left by airplane this morning to take charge of the forces engaged in the wide area of old slash which lies adjacent to Campbell River.

No communities are threatened to date by this or any of the dozen other fires burning on Vancouver Island and the lower mainland.

E. C. Manning, chief forester, told The Daily Province this morning that the Campbell River fire is definitely a major blaze and is reported travelling fast.

He added that there is no danger to tourists on any provincial highway, but warned all persons against entering the bush.

At noon today the fire on Chilliwack River, having burned some fifty acres, is reported under control.

WARNS OF DANGER.

Near Sechelt a fire on Salmon Arm is being fought by thirty-five men and is not dangerous.

Fire near Garibaldi station on P.G.E. is under control.

The fire on the south end of Gabriola Island is reported safe.

"The present fire situation is bad enough," Mr. Manning said, "but what we are worried about is the prospect of many more fires if conditions continue dry.

"We could easily run into one of the worst fire seasons in history, unless we get damper weather soon. We appeal to British Columbians to do their share in preventing fires which destroy the wealth and the jobs of this country."

USE ALL SERVICES.

Augmented by hundreds of recruited fire-fighters, B. C. forestry service is under severe strain in meeting recurrent outbreaks. Every man and every piece of equipment is in service.

Vancouver sent 200 men into the front line of the fight following an emergency call on Friday night. Within fifteen minutes 150 men answered the call sent out by J. H. McVety, superintendent of employment service of Canada, in behalf of forestry branch. The call was made over The Daily Province nightly news broadcast.

Canadian Pacific Princess Norah carried the men—211 in all—to Nanaimo, whence they were transported to the Campbell

(Continued from Page 1.)

dangerous fire on Vancouver Island.

MAY CALL FOR MORE.

The Vancouver contingent, many of them from the ranks of Relief Workers' Project Union, was fighting fire at 8.30 this morning—something of a record, according to forestry officials.

Men who have forest experience and are equipped to fight fire, especially in the matter of boots, are advised to listen to The Daily Province broadcast tonight. Officials will make a further call at this time, if the situation warrants.

Before the Vancouver contingent arrived in Campbell River, the forestry branch had sixty men fighting fire and a logging camp crew of between 300 and 400 were in the line. There are some 700 men fighting fire in the area today.

"Very serious" was the way forestry officials described the Campbell River situation.

Firebreaks and trails are being broken out to check the fire and reach strategical points. Limited back-firing is being used. Bulldozers have been called into action, to augment the efforts of axe and mattock crews.

Campbell River town was not worried this morning as new men were flung into the fighting line some ten miles from the community.

The fire, which has destroyed some virgin timber in its path, moved down from the north toward Forbes Landing and has jumped the Campbell at one spot, but is still north of the highway between Campbell River settlement and Forbes Landing.

FEAR "SPOT FIRE."

The surviving patch of primeval timber around the roaring Elk Falls was not in immediate danger this morning.

Grimy, sweating men moved into the line this morning armed with mattocks, pumps, hose, axes and canvas back-packs.

The chief danger of an advancing fire in such weather is the "spot fire." These are new blazes which may break out anywhere within a mile of the main line of the fire. They are started by burning debris lifted by the fire's self-created draft. On the wings of a breeze they carry hundreds of yards, with a strong wind ten times that far.

STREAMS DEFENSE LINE.

There's a strategy in battling forest fires comparable to that used in stopping the advance of troops. Those in charge must study the ground in the path of the flames and make their dispositions accordingly. Every physical feature of the country must be taken into consideration.

Streams, of course, are a main line of defence, but the average creek in midsummer is a pretty thin defence against a fire that may leap half a mile on the wings of a wind.

There's no glamour about fire-fighting. It's just long hours of the hardest, hottest work imaginable—always with the chance of death if men get cut off or surrounded.

In higher timber the greatest danger is a crown fire. Under such conditions the flames may suddenly begin to race along the tops of the trees at an unbelievable rate.

Dr. E. A. Cleveland, district commissioner, states all the board's customary summer fire prevention precautions have been taken. "Lookouts" are maintained day and night in specially-built watch towers in the Capilano and Seymour valleys.

Beware! Match May Set Forest Fire

Glowing head of a hastily extinguished match may start a forest fire under present conditions.

Humidity is at a low mark.

Grass, timber, slash is tinder dry.

Even on highways, people should be careful to extinguish matches and cigarettes.

Camp fires should not be lit anywhere. They are illegal without permit.

Provincial forestry authorities emphasize the fact that there is no danger to tourist travel on highways, but warn people to stay out of the bush.

Province July 16 1938

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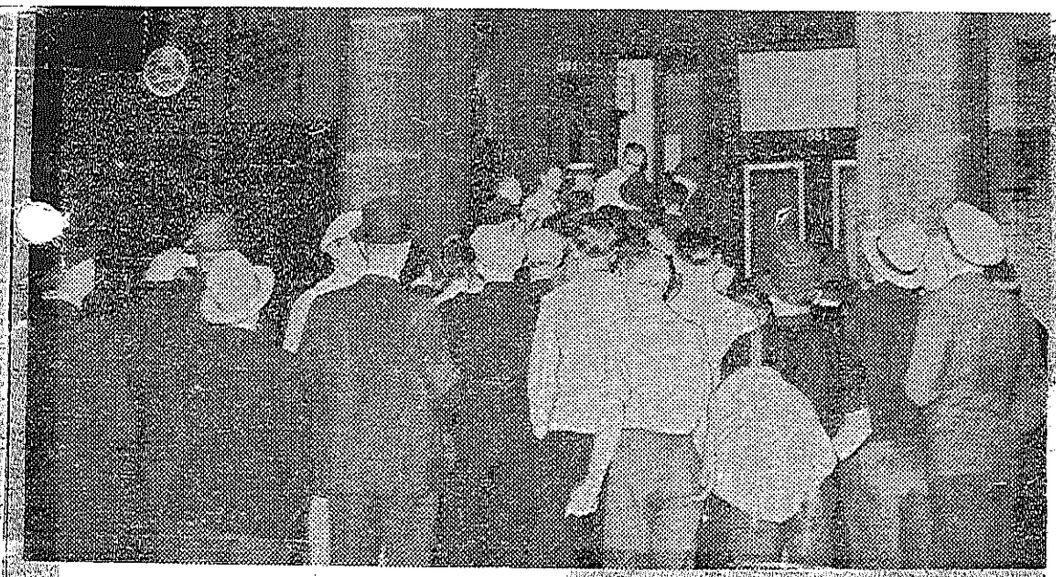
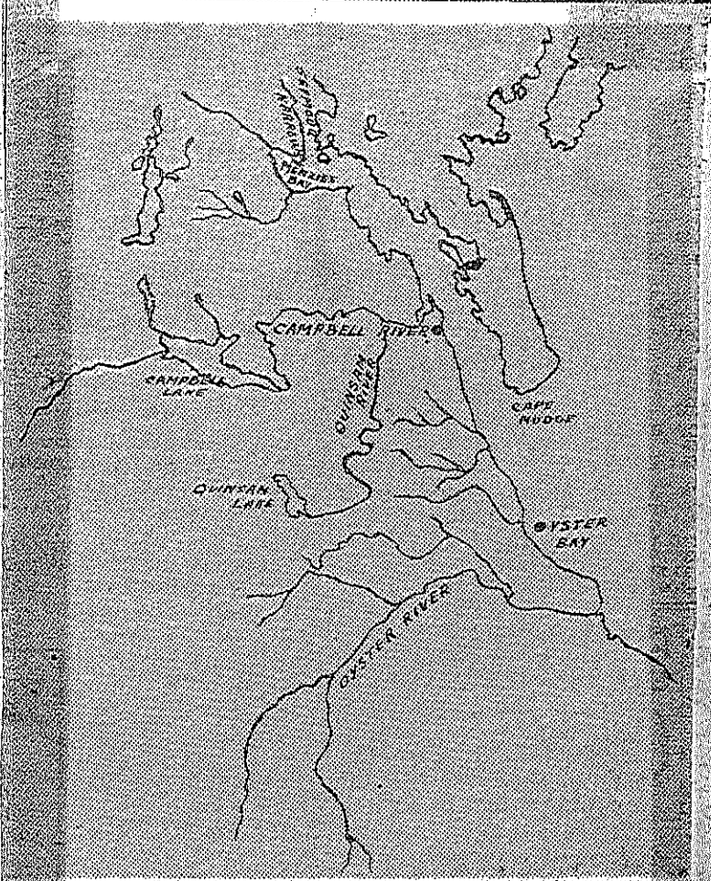




OFF TO THE "FRONT"—Unemployed rushed to employment office on Friday night when the call went out over The Daily Province news broadcast for fighters to go to the Campbell River area. They signed on at 25 cents an hour. Most important thing for the job is a good pair of strong-soled boots.

More than 700 men are fighting fire in part of the area depicted in the map. Reports as to the actual path of the fire are confusing but it is indicated generally that it swept down from the direction of Menzies Bay toward Forbes Landing.

Daily Province.
July 16- 1938

Flames Sweeping South On Island; $200,000 Loss

Timber Valued at $300,000 in Path Of Blaze

900 MEN BUSY

By TORCHY ANDERSON.
(Daily Province Staff Correspondent.)

FORBES LANDING, July 18.—From this beautiful fishermen's camp a weary, sleepless band of forestry officials are directing some 900 men in a battle against forest fire which already has in its maw $200,000 worth of property and is licking forward toward another $300,000 worth of cut timber.

One of the greatest forest fires in the history of Vancouver Island crackled outside.

It is sweeping along on the wings of a northwest breeze.

Hundreds of men, scores of pumps, fifty miles of hose, snorting caterpillar bulldozers, axe and shovel crews — every available means of modern forest-fire fighting — is pitted against the red enemy. It has made a blazing hell-pot north of this little hotel, and in the slash to the southeast, a series of small infernos where old snags blaze like candles on the devil's birthday cake.

The main fire today burned southward on a five-mile front, advancing from the Lower Campbell toward Quinsam.

"Moderate westerly winds, fair and quite warm today and most of Tuesday; then cloudy," is the official forecast. No indication of rain has been sighted.

DANGEROUS CONDITION.

In its wake it has left a dangerous condition on the peninsula which juts into the lake north of this landing.

To the west, north of the Campbell River, which joins the upper and lower lakes, another off-shoot of the fire is reported held.

Bloedel, Stewart and Welsh are reported to have lost twenty million feet of logs that were cold-decked awaiting shipment.

In the path of the fire are more than forty million feet of cold-decked logs from the property of the Elk River Timber Co. and Comox Logging Co.

The situation today is decidedly serious and forestry officials make no secret of their anxiety.

NO SIGN OF BLAZE.

You may drive up the Island Highway and but for the occasional sniff of smoke, never know that back in the hills men are waging a desperate, dangerous fight. The cards are stacked against man.

Under-dry areas of slash, dotted

ON THE FIRE FRONT

The way a small flame leaps up a fir tree is graphically pictured in the upper left photo, taken late Saturday night near Forbes Landing.

Upper right shows one of the many heroes of the fires, Constable M. N. McAlpine of Campbell River.

C. J. Haddon, wan after two sleepless nights, is seen talking to Roger Cobb, superintendent of Elk River Logging Co., in lower left photo. Twisted metal is all that is left of one of the trucks at Brown's camp after the fire swept through (right).

The Daily

MISSING FIRE FIGHTERS SAFE

Daily Province Staff Man Tells How Forest Blaze Is Fought.

By TORCHY ANDERSON.
(Daily Province Staff Correspondent.)

CAMPBELL RIVER, July 20.—Last night I went to the blazing east flank of the big fire with a forestry official who was in search of three men who had not shown up at an appointed rendezvous. He found them.

The fact that they were missed among the hundreds who had been in the field all afternoon is proof that behind the apparent confusion of fire fighting there is a well-defined system.

You can't say ten minutes ahead what a forest fire is going to do. Therefore the system must be flexible. One hundred men have been fed and bedded at one place last night; tonight it may be necessary to find place for them ten miles away.

EACH HIS JOB.

At midnight last night there were a score of bedless men waiting on the steps of the Willows Hotel. Every bed in Campbell River was full of tired, blistered fire fighters. Eventually they were found accommodation —of sorts.

This morning they were on the job by 5 o'clock. Their long day's job may be in the felling gang—axe and saw men, whose duty it is to strengthen fire-guards by felling snags (lowering dead trees that are the worst spreaders of sparks).

They may be assigned to shovel and mattock patrols, their duty to put out spot fires; they may have to drive trucks; some of them will be sitting the plunging seats of caterpillar bulldozers; some running portable pumps and laying hose lines; others bringing up water and food.

To date the great fire has been burning through lands that has been logged—some of it recently, some years ago. On the old logging there is some second growth and many old rotting logs. Then there are patches of new slash which would have been burned off during the fall rains. Then there are patches of uncut timber.

The modern method of fighting

lines are used. These are generally kept for the protection of buildings and the great piles of cut logs which are waiting in the woods for transportation.

Communication is the vital link which co-ordinates activities. In the great fire the boys all sing praises of Johnny Huff, B. C. Telephone foreman. Johnny has been on the job night and day trying to keep his lines up through the fire area. He never gives up.

MUST CHOOSE GROUND.

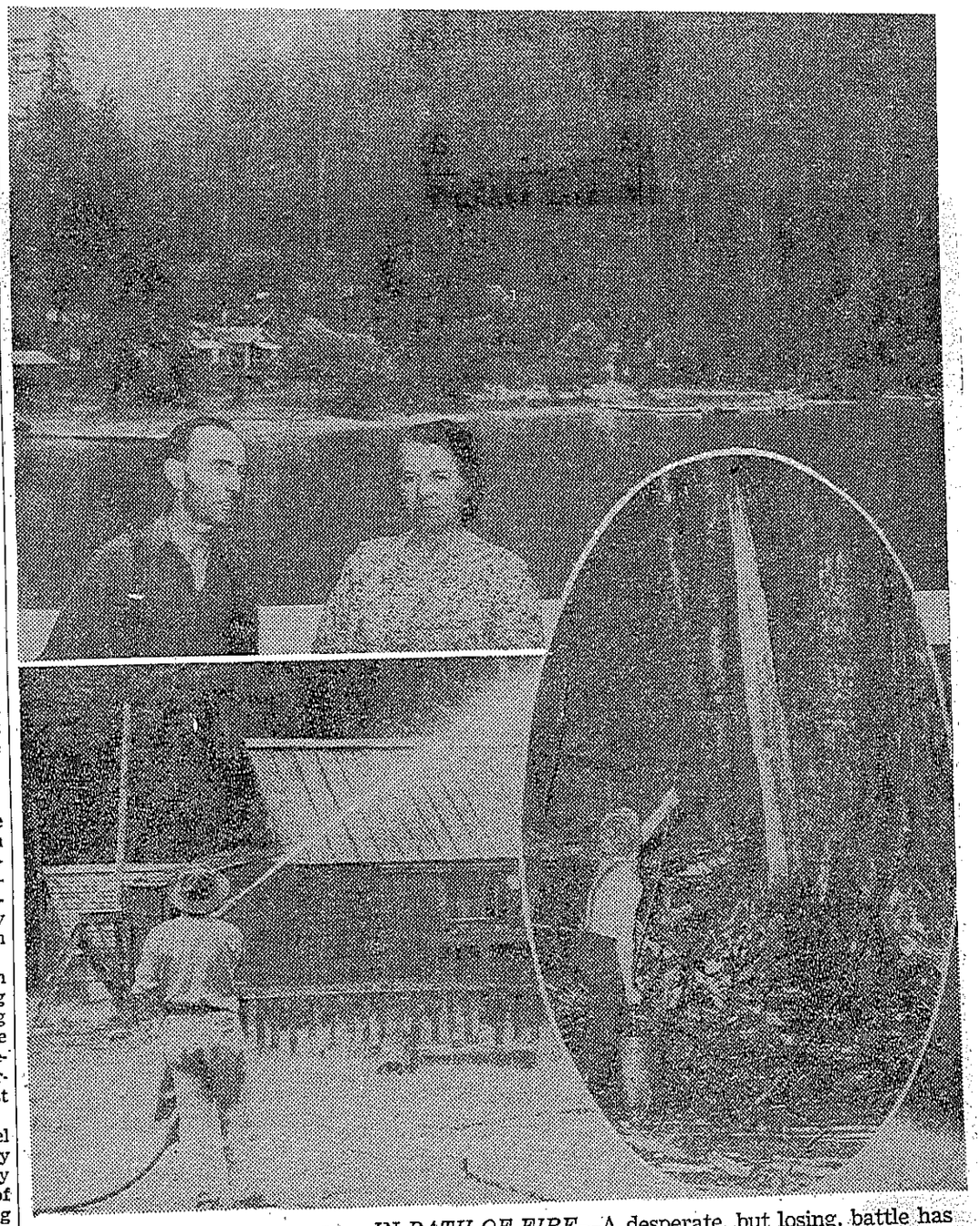
Those in charge of fighting must choose their ground. Sometimes it is good business to sacrifice an area in order to make a more determined stand on better ground. Backfiring is effective under proper conditions, but in the present fire it has not been possible to do much—too dangerous.

Spot fires are also fought by men carrying portable back-pack tanks—when water is available.

Those in charge must move their forces at the whim of the fire. They must arrange shifts and reliefs. They must account for all the men on their lines. They must have beds and food for their fighters. Most important, they must keep up morale and make their men work.

ANNOY OLD HANDS.

Green hands are mixed with old loggers and your old logger will fight fire until he drops. There are stories of men among the imported crews who have shown some inclination to dis-



IN PATH OF FIRE—A desperate, but losing, battle has been waged on Vancouver Island to save the small settlement of Forbes Landing on Lower Campbell Lake, shown in the top photo. At the left, centre, are Mr. and Mrs. James Forbes, who settled there thirty years ago. At the left, below, one of the residents turns the hose on a building, while at the right another uses a portable pump on a blazing tree.

23a

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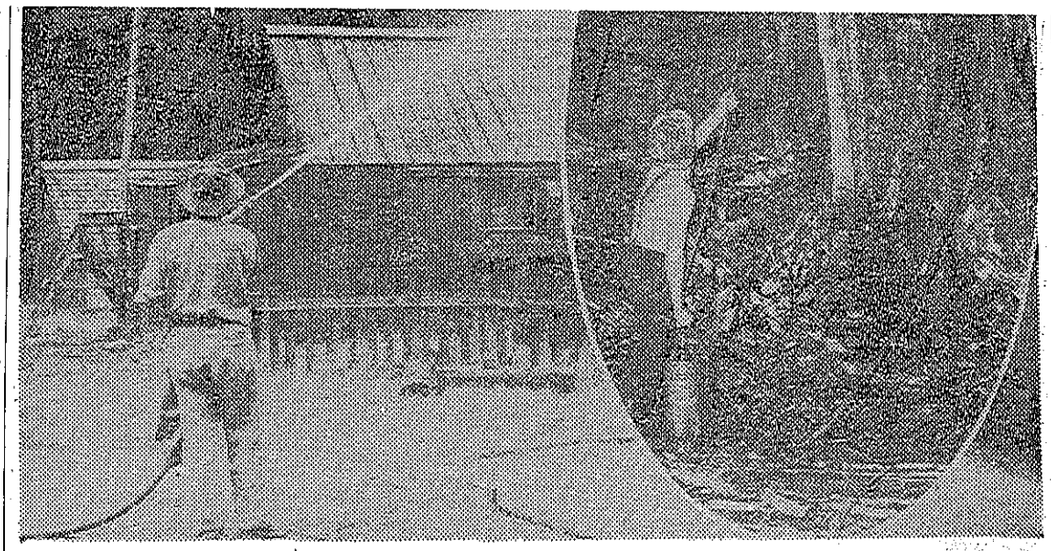
Green hands are mixed with old loggers and your old logger will fight fire until he drops. There are stories of men among the imported crews who have shown some inclination to discuss political theories on the fire line. There have been resultant kicks in the pants and pokes on the nose from exasperated old hands.

It is very difficult to do anything on the face of a big fire unless fighters fall back a long distance and prepare an elaborate line of defense. Most of the work is done on the flanks with the hope of pinching out the fire by throwing its front.

If the fire gets into standing timber and goes into the dreaded "crown fire," which races over the tops of trees as fast as a mile a minute, there is nothing to do but pray. And you'll do that on the run.



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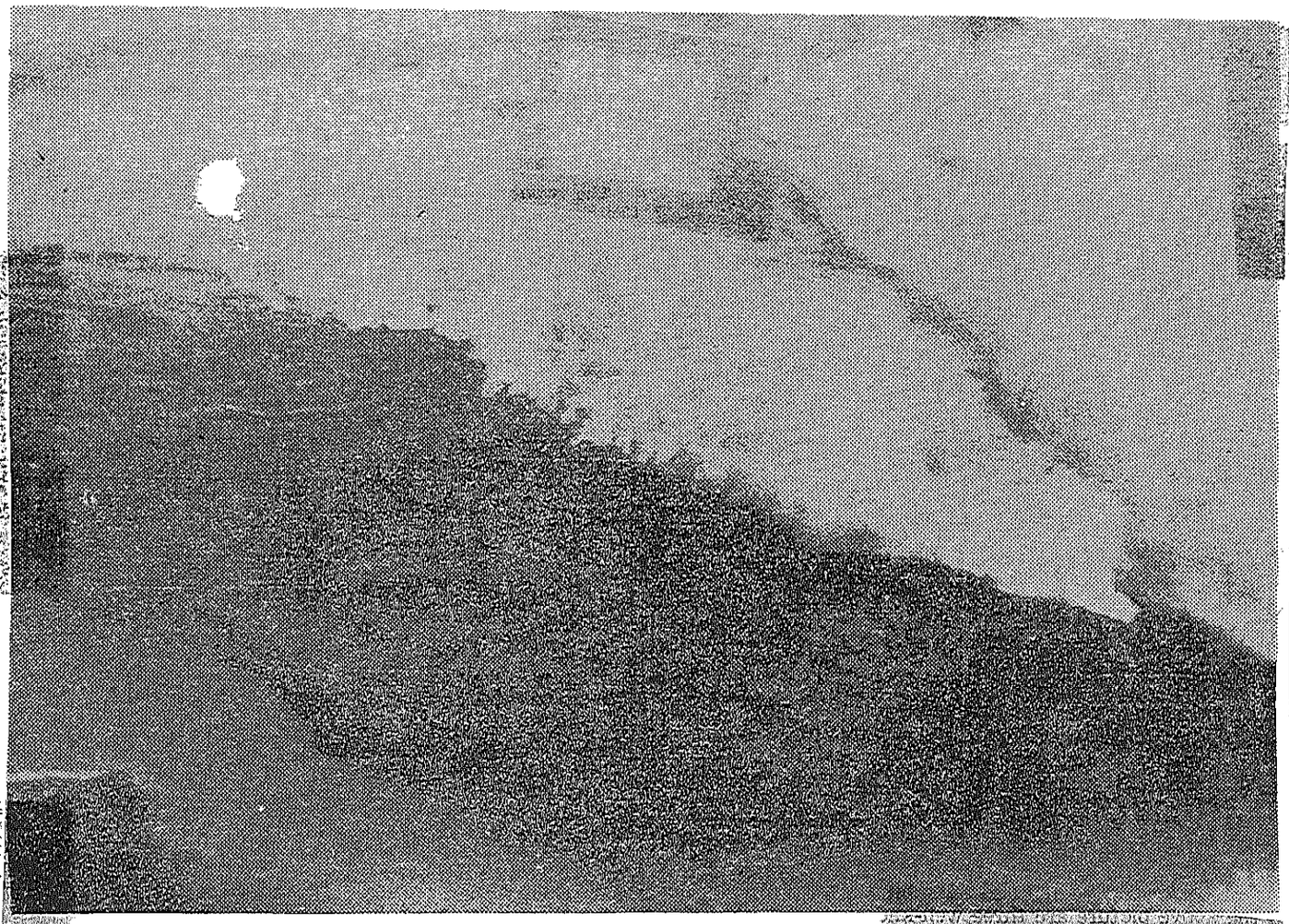

NEAR FORBES LANDING—This photo of the forest fire raging on Vancouver Island shows the northern flank of the outbreak. In the foreground lower Campbell Lake can be seen. Near here, Forbes Landing, well-known fishing spot, was wiped out by the flames.

Little Fawn Meets Death In the Fire

By TORCHY ANDERSON.
(Daily Province Staff Correspondent.)

CAMPBELL RIVER, July 21.—Plight of wild life in the course of the fire brings a soft note from the toughest fire-fighter. At night they see herds of deer wandering across the roads in a puzzled search for safety from the roaring enemy.

Last night about 100 yards from where a roaring hell blocked a logging road I saw a fawn, so young it could scarcely toddle on its spindly legs, looking for its mother.

I tried to get around it in order to direct it away from the fire, but it persisted in moving in the wrong direction, occasionally lying down on the road through sheer exhaustion.

Unable to do anything, I had to leave it. My last sight of the little fellow was his tiny figure silhouetted against the spark-belching underbrush.

* * *

Cruelty of fire rumors was brought home when a young married woman rushed up to forestry headquarters on Wednesday night to ask about her husband, who had been fire-fighting for a week.

Hysterically she told of a man who had come down the road with a story that Mr. Forbes had been killed at the Landing and that 150 men were missing.

District Forester C. J. Haddon calmed her fears, told her there had been no casualties.

* * *

The permanent population of Forbes Landing, Jim Forbes, his wife and two daughters, came out of the fire today and headed toward Vancouver. They want a rest.

* * *

Daily Province
July 21.
Photo taken 12 noon July 20

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* * *

Colin Cameron, M.L.A., is here, there and everywhere, volunteering his services for any job that needs doing.

* * *

Mrs. Barbara Marriott of Courtenay is one of the familiar figures of this fire - swept region. She drives one of her husband's trucks and carries equipment and food to the fighting crews. She's more afraid of a camera than running the gauntlet of a fire-bordered road.

* * *

Yesterday evening they sent [illegible]um Marling up to Elk Falls [illegible]k to relieve Ranger Charley [illegible]sroth, who had been car- [illegible]on an isolated battle. [illegible] could not remember [illegible] went to sleep last, but [illegible] to quit the job when

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Daily Province
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Loggers Face Record Fire Losses

Camps Retain Crews Intact Despite Damage to Property

Bucked, Felled and Cold-decked Timber Destroyed By Flames—Lumberjacks Become Firefighters.

LOSSES resulting from the burning of felled, bucked and cold-decked timber and the destruction of equipment on Vancouver Island during the past few days will be the greatest in the annals of British Columbia logging, leading Vancouver operators declared today.

So far, reliable estimates of the loss are impossible, but executives of some of the logging companies affected by the present blaze in the Campbell River-Comox forest region say they can not recall a fire more destructive to felled timber.

"There has been comparatively little standing timber lost," said the head of one of the biggest companies operatinb on the Island. "But the loss of felled, bucked and cold-decked timber equipment and bridges will set a record by a wide margin. We've never had anything to compare with this before. Even the outbreak at Merville in 1922, which was more spectacular because of the wind, which caused more damage to homes and imperilled more lives was insignificant by comparison, so far as damage to logging property was concerned.

LOSS NOT COMPUTED.

Extent of the loss will not be known for weeks, until after logging superintendents have had a chance to make a thorough check-up. Loggers hope they will be able to salvage some of the equipment reported a total loss.

Insurance is never carried on standing timber, but most of the companies are protected to some extent on logs, equipment and bridges. This insurance is carried in so many forms and so many companies—some loggers insure their own plant—that any computation of the extent of insurance claims at this stage would be a mere guess.

LOG OUTPUT DROPS.

Despite the greatest fire loss in the history of British Columbia, few loggers have been deprived of their jobs. This announcement is issued today by B. C. Loggers' Association, officials of which state that the 3500 to 4000 woodsmen employed in camps when fire hazard necessitated clamping down on operations are available for fire-fighting to a man, and in areas where fires have not broken out, are engaged in patrol, track laying, or camp maintenance.

Log production will register a pronounced drop during the mid-summer period, they add, but company heads intend to carry out their recent agreement with the Provincial Government to maintain employment at the highest possible level.

There has been no cutting down of payrolls as a result of idleness forced on operators by the fire menace, they repeat, although operators are unanimous it is impossible to take any risks under present conditions.

Only a change in weather, with rain or a sudden rise in humidity will start the logs moving again, except in a few areas in the "fog belt" on the west coast of Vancouver Island and along the northern coast. There conditions are more favorable, and a few operations may be able to continue with their normal production.

Daily Province

23c

28 Flee Flames As Fire Sweeps Forbes Landing

Firefighters Lose Battle to Save Famed Island Fishing Resort

30,000,000 FT. OF LOGS IN DANGER

By TORCHY ANDERSON.
(Daily Province Staff Correspondent.)

CAMPBELL RIVER, July 19.—Forbes Landing, haven of fishermen for many years, is doomed.

First buildings of the tourist centre crackled up before flames hard-driven by an increasing northwest wind at 2 o'clock, an hour after Mrs. James Forbes and her two daughters had evacuated.

Fighting heroically to the last, a crew of twenty-five men plan to [illegible] their escape along the road which follows the far shore of the lake to Elk River Timber Co. Camp Eight, reported still safe from flames. Along this road Mrs. Forbes and her daughters proceeded to safety.

An immediate exodus was planned by the fire-fighters at Forbes.

If the highway is cut off, they will not be endangered, foresters say, as the logging railway remains open, and the lake itself offers protection.

WIND DOES IT.

Up to 1 p.m. it was thought that the landing was safe.

Then the dreaded northwest wind, which had been gathering momentum since morning, strengthened markedly, rolling the fire along with a speed and impetus that defied desperate efforts of fighters, who have been guarding the landing since the blaze swept out of Menzies Bay area slash.

The message was flashed to this little logging town by two-way radio, a matter of minutes before the crew began their retreat.

At this writing the fire has been held a short distance from a mass of 30,000,000 feet of cold-decked logs on its western flank.

This is the vital spot. If this mass of cut timber goes, no man can tell how far south the flames may sweep.

Despite the worst possible conditions today, there is a minimum chance that the fire may be held somewhere near the present line.

SECOND-GROWTH LOSS.

If it continues southward, the greatest danger will be a crown fire in standing timber—a most dreaded and uncontrollable form of forest fire. Up to this time, the fire has burned chiefly through old logged areas, and the loss of standing timber has been largely confined to second-growth.

District Forester C. J. Haddon awaits the arrival of a seaplane in which to make a reconnaissance of the area. On this survey, forestry officials will hinge a plan of campaign in the event of the fire breaking away southward.

For a short time this morning, Elk Falls forestry camp, headquarters for several hundred fighters, was inaccessible by road.

LOGS STILL SAFE.

So far as could be learned this morning, the fire has only crossed the Quinsam River in one small patch about four miles south of its junction with the Campbell.

FIRES

(Continued from Page 1.)

About twenty miles south of the fire front, 90,000,000 feet of bucked timber, property of two major companies, may be menaced if conditions grow worse.

Eyes red from smoke and lack of sleep, throats parched by the dust of destruction, men went back to the front line battle this morning grim, determined. None can be optimistic in the face of present conditions. They can do their best and hope for a break in wind and weather.

Roaring caterpillars plunged up the winding roads to the plateau where the fire crackles through the slash and advertises itself by a pillar of smoke hundreds of feet in height.

Forest fire fighting proves a man about as quickly as enemy shell fire, and the large majority of the 900 men fighting this fire deserve praise beyond words.

James Forbes, veteran lodge keeper at the landing which bears his name, knows men and knows fires.

"The other evening, as he stood with the writer, watching the creeping fires a few hundred yards from his front yard, he said the necessary word.

"They've done all they could—forestry boys, the loggers, provincial police and game wardens. They put up a great fight to save this place."

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LOGS STILL SAFE.

So far as could be learned this morning, the fire has only crossed the Quinsam River in one small patch about four miles south of its junction with the Campbell.

This morning the east flank of the fire was approximately two miles west of this town, but it is working southwest, and is in no immediate threat.

Monday afternoon I circled the fire on the logging railroad which makes a rough horseshoe south of Campbell River, eight miles west around Quinsam Lake, then north to Camp Eight, which is near Forbes Landing.

(Continued on Page 2.)

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Daily Province.
July 19-1938

FIRES

(Continued from Page 1.)

with stands of green timber, are in the fire's pathway. Humidity has been down as low as 19, whereas 50 is considered a safety minimum.

An east wind Sunday helped the flanking movement against the fire on the east, making Campbell River town safe. It turned to the northwest last night and freshened as the red ball of the sun sank in the smoke-clouded western sky.

Camp number eight of the Elk River company lay in danger Sunday night and the fire was advancing slowly but with dreadful certainty on the vast stores of cut logs to the south.

UP IN SMOKE.

Tom Brown, veteran logger, who had a camp southeast of this landing, saw his camp, trucks, equipment and two million feet of cold-decked logs go up in smoke Sunday.

Sunday afternoon I walked four miles along the eastern flank of the fire in company with D. B. Taylor of the forestry branch. This flank of the fire is the battleground to protect Campbell River town and other settlements along the coast. At this writing none of the main highway settlements are even remotely threatened, and tourists need have no fear of using the highway.

They are fighting on this east flank with a heavy caterpillar bull-dozer which ripped four miles of trail and fire-guard in six hours through a maze of slash and dead-fall.

Perched on the bucking-seat of this rearing caterpillar was Roy Piercey. In the language of one of the gang fighting spot fires on this front "That boy sure can sit a cat."

THEY CARRY ON.

Sunday night patrols worked on the tractor-made fire-guard, extinguishing countless spot fires as they broke out.

Sunday as we walked southward to the Quinsan River, the breeze was kicking up the fire a few hundred feet to westward. Embers, some alive, fell like a gentle patter of rain. That's how the spot fires start.

Tourists have been evacuated from the upper Campbell and no ordinary traffic is allowed on the road past Campbell River.

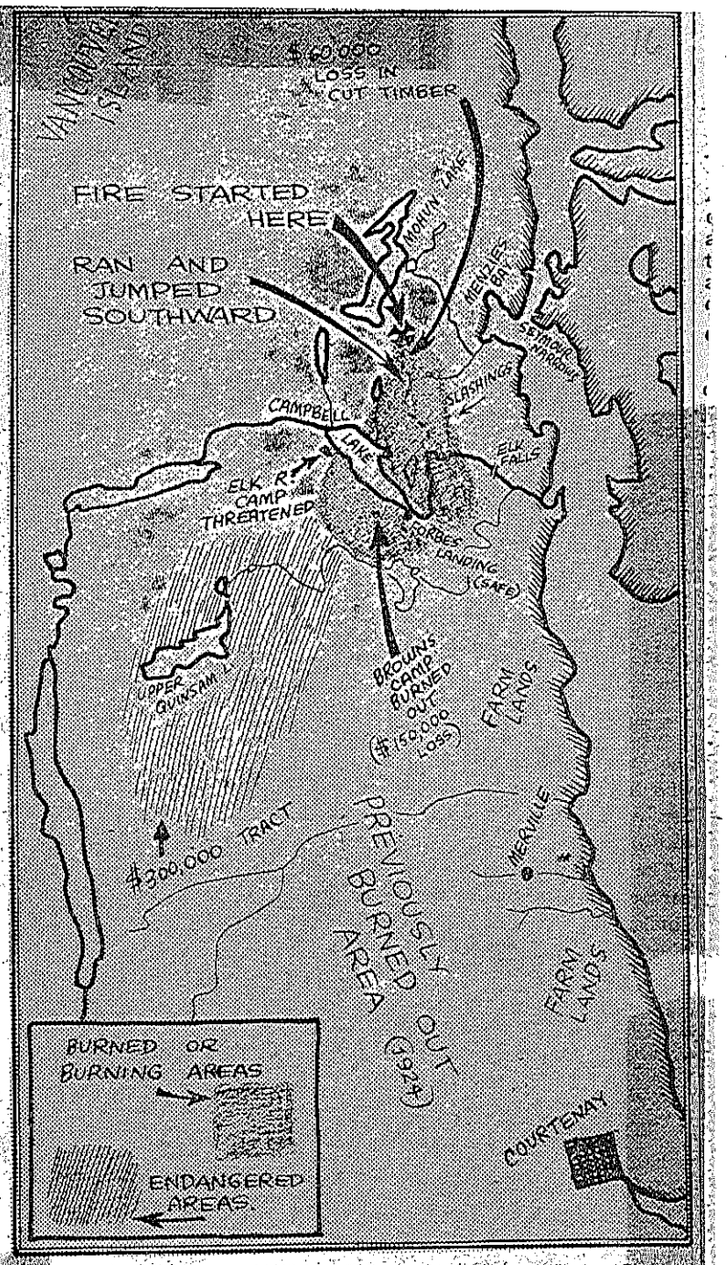
Early Saturday morning it was thought that the Forbes Landing Hotel was about to end its twenty-four years' of welcome to fishermen. Mrs. Forbes and her two daughters, Lorraine and Margaret, were sent to Campbell River. James Forbes stayed with the place he has known for thirty years.

BACK ON JOB.

Today Mrs. Forbes and her daughters are back on the job. They are happy and cheerful, while outside the angry smoke drifts past and across the narrow river they watch the fire creeping on.

The present fire started on the Bloedel limits, east of lower Campbell Lake, on July 5. The rain of last week was believed to have put it past danger, but dry weather revived it, and it crept eastward around Boot Lake, and along the north shore of lower Campbell. It jumped one and a half miles across the Campbell in one place and half a mile in another.

Today C. J. Haddon, district forester of Vancouver, traced the progress of the enemy on a map held by the writer. He told me what he and his men and the men of the logging companies are try-



WHERE FIRES RAGE—This map shows where fires are laying waste many areas on Vancouver Island.

Daily Province
July 18 - 1930

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Tourists have been evacuated from the upper Campbell and no ordinary traffic is allowed on the road past Campbell River.

Early Saturday morning it was thought that the Forbes Landing Hotel was about to end its twenty-four years' of welcome to fishermen. Mrs. Forbes and her two daughters, Lorraine and Margaret, were sent to Campbell River. James Forbes stayed with the place he has known for thirty years.

BACK ON JOB.

Today Mrs. Forbes and her daughters are back on the job. They are happy and cheerful, while outside the angry smoke drifts past and across the narrow river they watch the fire creeping on.

The present fire started on the Bloedel limits, east of lower Campbell Lake, on July 5. The rain of last week was believed to have put it past danger, but dry weather revived it, and it crept eastward around Boot Lake, and along the north shore of lower Campbell. It jumped one and a half miles across the Campbell in one place and half a mile in another.

Today C. J. Haddon, district forester of Vancouver, traced the progress of the enemy on a map held by the writer. He told me what he and his men and the men of the logging companies are trying to do.

Briefly, they are attempting to pinch the flanks of the fire, thus reducing the front, and working it towards a position where they can deliver a finishing stroke.

But that finishing stroke may be a long way off.

A stiff breeze might send the fire roaring southward along the foothills of the main Island range.

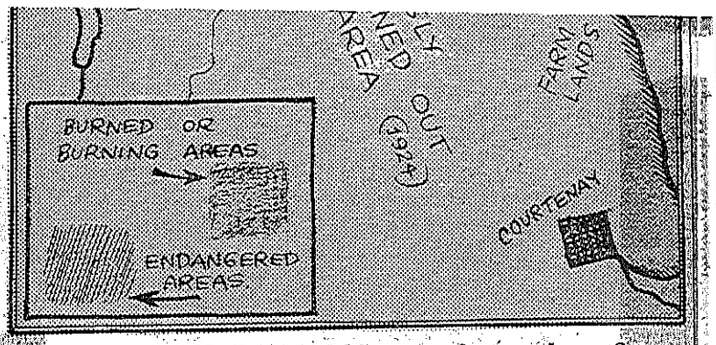
Under these conditions men can do so much; the rest is in the hands of fate and the breeze.

A rough estimate places the present payroll of firefighters, government and private companies, at $5000 a day.

Blaze at Sechelt Is "Slowing Down"

While the Campbell River fire . . . "worst since the Merville" . . . represents the hot spot in the present grave situation, other blazes are raging in different provincial sectors.

Burning through scrub timber on inaccessable mountain sides, a big fire on De Long Brothers' logging operations at Salmon Arm, Sechelt Inlet, was today reported "slowing down."



WHERE FIRES RAGE—This map shows where fires are laying waste many areas on Vancouver Island.

Daily Province
July 18 - 1933

Loggers Evacuate As Flames Shift Into Comox Area

Two Destroyers May Be Ordered to Island Forest Fire Zone

BATTLE TO SAVE THEIR CAMP

By TORCHY ANDERSON.
(Daily Province Staff Correspondent.)

COURTENAY, July 20.—Hot spot of the Island fire has shifted from Campbell River country to the claim of Comox Logging Co., immediately north of here.

Comox Camp 3, about ten miles north and inland, was completely evacuated by highway Tuesday night, and, according to provincial police, every able-bodied man who can get away from Courtenay is fighting desperately to keep the blaze out of the camp.

Three million feet of felled and bucked timber adjacent to Camp 3 has already been destroyed. A cherry-picker, railroad donkey, which picks up stray logs, was burned out.

The shift occurred suddenly during the night, a northwest wind hurling the fire south at an estimated speed of fifteen miles in two hours.

Between 200 and 300 men are now fighting in the Camp 3 area, recruited from Deep Bay, Fanny Bay, and other middle Island settlements on the east coast.

As another dry, windy day dawned, the situation was:

1—Canadian destroyers St. Laurent and Fraser, now at Duncan Bay, are standing by in case of emergency.

2—Navy signallers are established ashore, in communication with their ships.

3—Preparations made this morning to abandon Elk Falls forestry camp.

4—Main field headquarters are now at Campbelton bridge over Campbell River.

5—The southern head of the fire is still reported inland about six to eight miles from Oyster Bay.

6—Crews begin a fight to save millions of feet of cut logs in the newly-invaded area.

7—Arrangements with naval officers to bring their ships to Campbell River in case of emergency and put hose lines ashore.

Shortly after noon today I returned from another reconnaissance flight with Douglas B. Taylor, forest branch headquarters man. An aerial view indicates the blaze has now covered approximately 60,000 square miles, and is an estimated twenty miles long, from north to south.

CAMP EVACUATED.

Its southerly front is now about five miles west of the mouth of Oyster River, and just over Black Creek, whose summer trickle bisects the Merville second growth. Camp 3 of Comox Logging Co. is apparently safe as yet.

Ash falls all over the Comox-Courtenay area, and Comox Logging Co. has thrown 100 men and three more husky bulldozers into the fight.

The forestry camp at Elk Falls

(Continued on Page 2.)
See DESTROYERS.

Flames Only 30 Feet From Wing Tips on Plane Flight

His plane loaded to capacity with 10,000 feet of fire-hose, Pilot Howard MacDonald of Canadian Airways flew to Lower Campbell Lake late Tuesday.

"The fire was within thirty feet of my wing-tips when I taxied to the landing," he said today.

While he was at Forbes Landing, Pilot MacDonald said, six automobiles were driven into the lake to save them from flames. From the air, the road to the landing appeared to be blocked completely.

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DESTROYERS

(Continued from Page 1.)

and park timber still stands, but the men have evacuated by a hastily-built footbridge thrown over Campbell River a short distance above the falls.

New pumps arrived here by air today, flown over by Pilot Clare Dobbin, who has returned to Vancouver for another. The wind is still in the northwest, but so far today it is just a breeze.

After viewing the fire from the air, forestry officials are more cheerful as to the situation on the Campbell River front. The Island Highway is still open, and at no point has the fire approached closer than two miles of the highway.

Forbes Landing Hotel stands this morning after a night during which the crew slept on the float. They shot streams of water over the building, which was once yesterday abandoned as lost.

ROAD OPEN.

This morning a man walked through from Forbes Landing, and it was expected that trucks would be able to get through, at least for a time today, although dropping humidity, rising temperature and a renewal of yesterday's winds as the day advances may again sweep horns of the blaze across the road.

During Tuesday, a day which far exceeded any other in wild progress of the flames, wind reached a velocity of more than twenty miles an hour, bringing the length of the fire to ten miles.

At 2 p.m. yesterday, the crew at Forbes Landing radioed that the place was on fire and they must leave at once. They were ordered out, but a last-minute change in conditions enabled them to continue the fight. They had established their radio by early evening and continued to send reports.

FLEW OVER FIRE.

On Tuesday evening, along with Pilot Ted Dobbin and Bert Conway, local forestry supervisor, I flew over three sides of the great fire.

We flew directly over Forbes Landing, but that place was out of view in a drift of grey smoke.

The fire from the air is a thing of terrifying grandeur. The wind had died, and fringes of the fire were marked by lines of flame eating slowly outward. Moving dots and little clouds of dust marked men waging their retreating battle.

Sabotage Hits Fire Line; Hundred Men Dismissed; Forbes Landing Razed

Flames Break Loose At Southern End Of Blaze Zone

CAMP IS SAFE

(Daily Province Staff Correspondent.)

CAMPBELL RIVER, July 21.—Forbes Landing Hotel was wiped out this morning and almost simultaneously, away to the south, at the opposite end of the forest fire zone, the blaze broke free from the stubborn grip of the firefighters.

Under a brisk wind, the fire swept southwestward from a point approximately opposite Oyster River, and at noon today was working through standing timber on the foothills of the main range of Vancouver Island.

Half a million dollars' worth of cut timber lies in imminent danger, and an untold amount of virgin forest.

Bob Filberg of Comox Logging Co. and Douglas Taylor of the forest branch took off with Pilot Ted Dobbin at noon today to check from the air the observations they made from the ground this morning.

FUTILE FIGHT.

Both these experienced men [illegible] under present conditions it [illegible] unable to control the fire. Fighting it is almost futile, and a decision will be made whether it would be better to salvage what equipment can be got out of the path of the flames.

Officials are joined in the opinion that this is by far the greatest and most destructive fire that has ever swept a logged and partly settled area of British Columbia. It is by far the largest fire in the history of Vancouver Island.

Old hands on this fire refer to the famous Merville fire of 1922 as "a bonfire" in comparison.

While wind on the north end of the fire is from the northwest, on the south end it is more easterly and is driving towards the uncut timber in the foothills, bringing a threat to headquarters camp of the Comox in the Wolf Lake country and several minor operations.

Under present conditions the eventual line of this fight may reach Puntledge River at the meadowlands near Courtenay.

HOTEL IS GONE.

Forbes Landing, the little hotel and outbuildings which was the scene of one of the most stubborn fights in this great fire, was wiped out early in the morning.

The smoking foundations of the hotel and five other buildings could be seen from the air at an early hour. Two small outhouses remain standing.

SITUATION AT GLANCE

1—A general roundup of malcontents was begun by forest branch officials following alleged sabotage of hoses and a portable fire pump. It was planned to send 100 men back to Vancouver today.

2—Fire is sweeping along Comox holdings in the direction of Puntledge river, Courtenay area. Farm and meadowlands will keep it out of Courtenay, say woodsmen. Camp 3 and headquarters of Comox Logging Co. still safe.

3—Forbes Landing Hotel and most of the outbuildings were reduced to embers early today, when wind rolled sheets of flame lakeward.

Daily Province July 21.

Six Hoses Are Cut; Sugar in Gasoline Stalls Pump

TEMPERS FRAY

By TORCHY ANDERSON.
Daily Province Staff Correspondent.

CAMPBELL RIVER, July 21.—Clear cases of sabotage on several fronts of the big fire are confirmed by forest branch authorities today.

New hoses have been hacked in half a dozen instances. One thousand feet of hose was destroyed.

At Forbes Landing, a portable pump, vital in the defense of that lost property, was put out of business by putting sugar in the gas tank.

As a result of the incidents and the reports of foremen that men were "soldiering on the job," forestry gangs are being drastically overhauled.

The first group of possibly 100 men who will be given their time will leave here this afternoon to be returned to Vancouver, where they were engaged.

HADDON IRATE.

"Some of you boys haven't been hitting the ball, and you're going back to Vancouver," said District Forester C. J. Haddon to a group of protesting men at noon today.

The combing-out process has not yet been completed, but it is expected that more than 100 men will be returned to Vancouver.

The incident culminates growing feeling against a small number of the imported men by local woodsmen who are fighting fire.

Many incidents have happened which make this feeling clear.

A young Scots woodsman who lives in Campbell River told me he had to "put his fighting-irons on" this morning. He said that a guy had tried to argue with him that he shouldn't fight fire for 25c an hour.

"These guys don't know that we're fighting to save our bread and butter—work in the woods."

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The smoking foundations of the hotel and five other buildings could be seen from the air at an early hour. Two small outhouses remain standing.

A spark carried on the early morning wind set the place alight.

"One pump in commission might have saved it," said one of the crew who reached here about noon.

SHIPS MOVE OUT.

It was at Forbes Landing on Tuesday that a pump was sabotaged by placing sugar in the [illegible]

[illegible] in Check

[illegible] which burned over four [illegible] of land about five miles [illegible] the mouth of Indian River, [illegible] was brought under control Wed-

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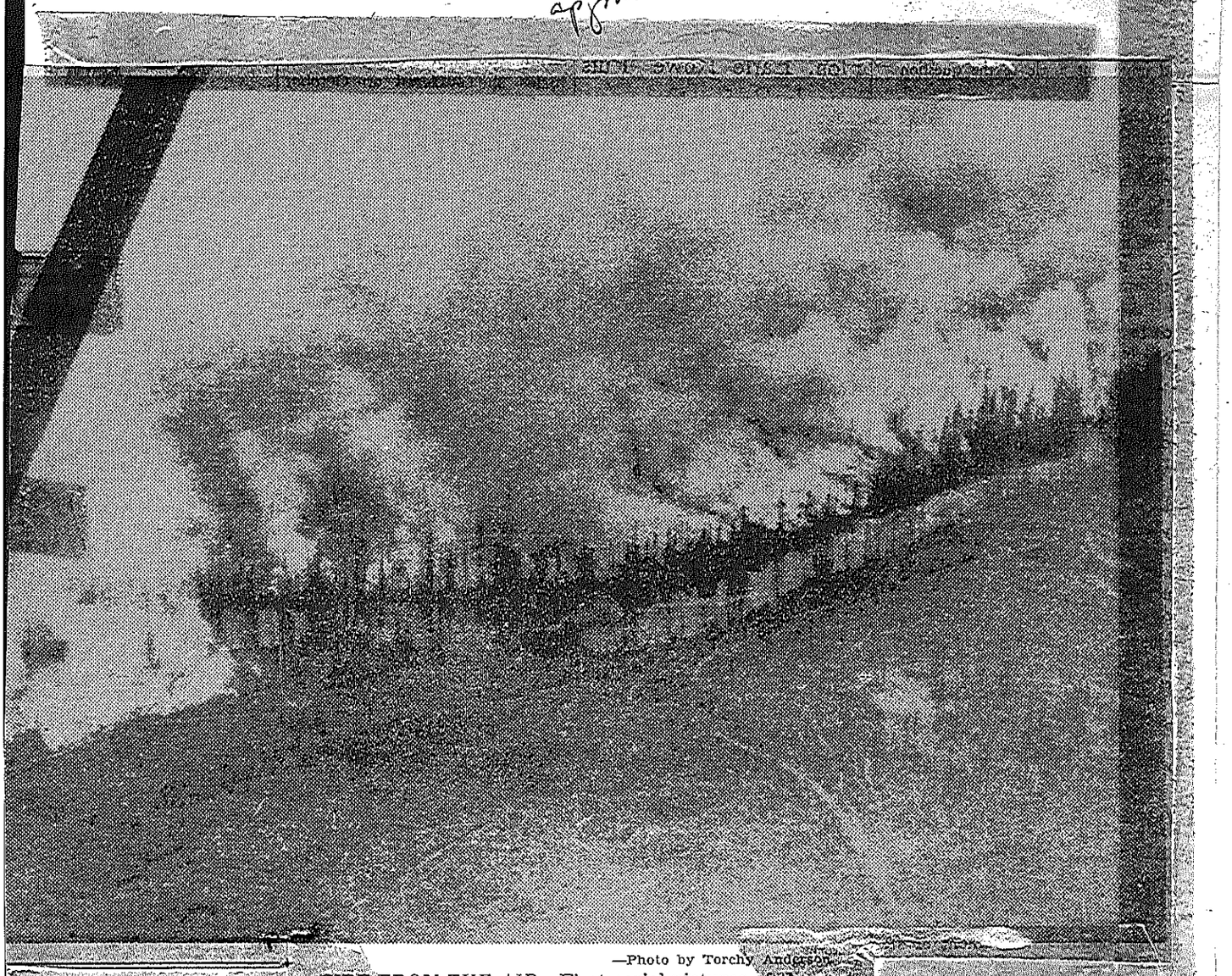
Daily Province July 21

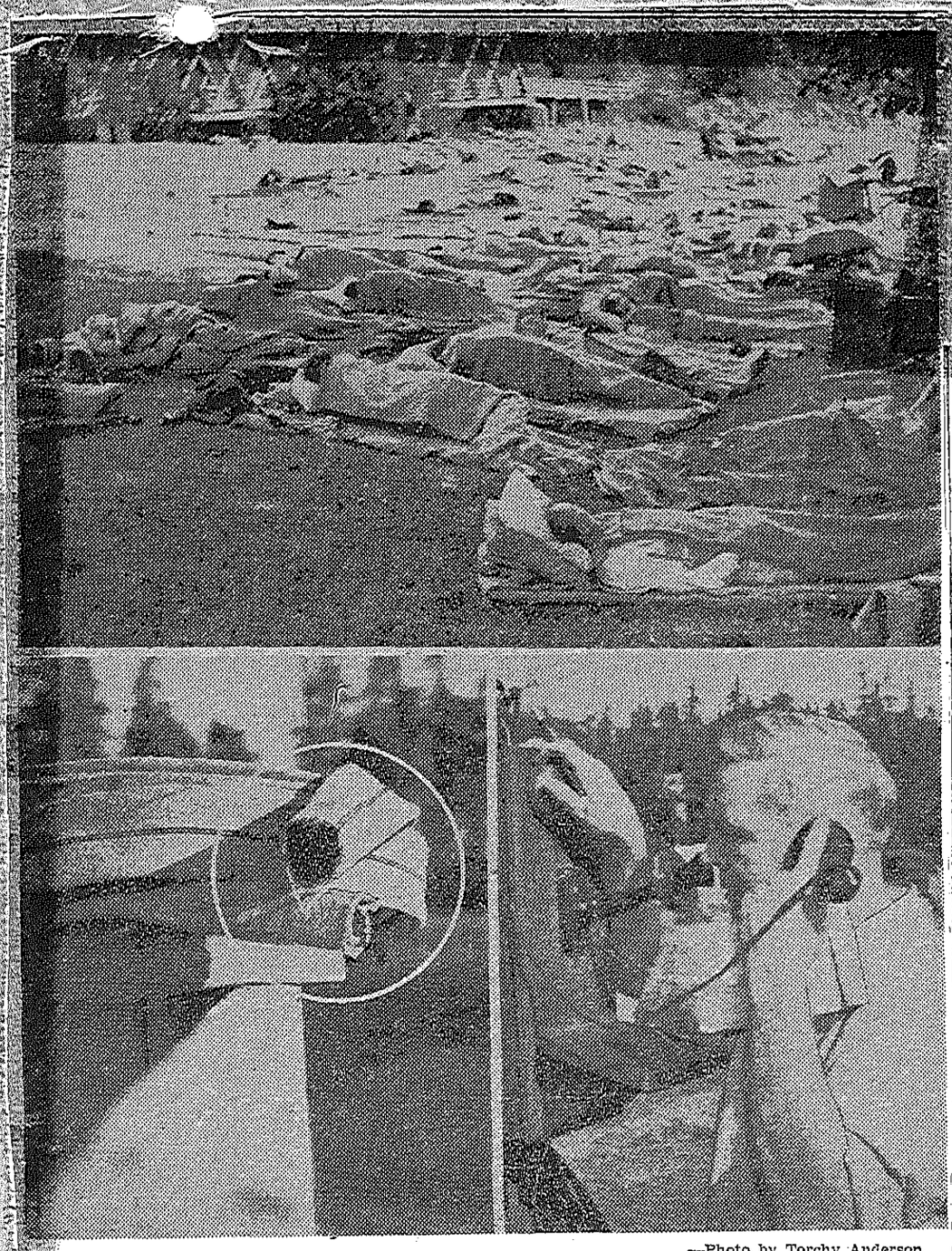
Photo taken Wed July 20

12 Noon approx



—Photo by Torchy Anderson.

FIRE FROM THE AIR—First aerial pictures of the vast Vancouver Island fire—the worst in B. C.'s history—were taken Wednesday by a Daily Province staff member on reconnoissance with officials. The photo above shows the eastern flank of the fire, which is spreading toward Campbell River settlement after having crossed the river near Forbes Landing. The blaze can be seen sweeping through logged-over areas which constitute some of the most famous grouse-hunting country in the province. (See also page 6.)



—Photo by Torchy Anderson.

AT FIRE HEADQUARTERS—Campbell River town is a sheltered bay in the big fire sweeping the middle Island. Here officials and firefighters plan each step of the campaign. In the upper picture, weary men are sleeping in parkland near Campbellton highway bridge after hours on the fireline. Lower left is mute evidence of sabotage that has resulted in a weeding of malcontents from the fight. It shows fabric hose slashed and useless. At the right, District Forester C. J. Haddon, who is in charge, gives orders over a line phone.

VANCOUVER ISLAND LOGGING SHUT DOWN

Government Orders All Camps to Close.

Logging has been prohibited on Vancouver Island, south of the Salmon River country, until a change in weather has reduced present terrific fire hazard.

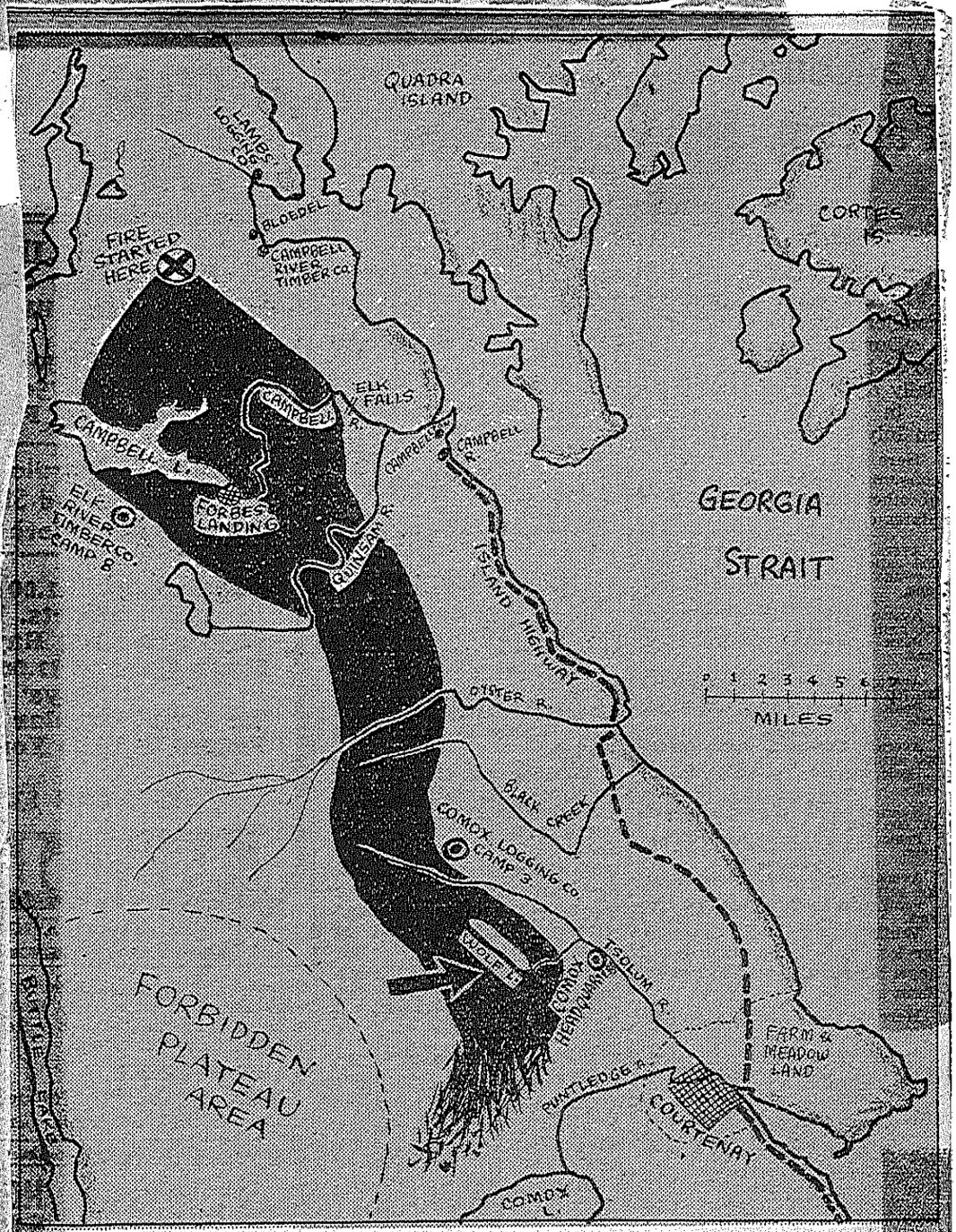
In a radical departure from fire protection usage in British Columbia, Hon. A. Wells Gray, minister of lands, Thursday issued this order clamping down on operations on all but the northwestern tip of the Island.

"In view of the existing hazardous condition of the forest cover, and pursuant to provisions of Section 119 of the Forest Act," the bulletin states, "all that portion of Vancouver Island south and east of a boundary on the 126th parallel of longitude on the shoreline of Johnstone Straits, thence south to the 50th parallel of latitude, thence west to the Pacific Ocean, is declared a closed district within which all logging operations are prohibited."

In a letter accompanying the order, the minister of lands declared:

"The situation on the lower coast is fraught with more serious danger to life and property than has ever existed within the experience of the department."

He adds that B. C. Loggers' Association and independent loggers have been approached with a view to co-operation, which has been forthcoming to the highest degree.



WHERE FIRE RUNS FREE—Here, marked in black, is an approximation of the course of Vancouver Island's most appalling forest fire, now between thirty and forty miles from horn to horn, and covering more than 60,000 acres of cut timber, slash, partially-burned lands and second growth. From Menzies Bay slash it jumped the funnel-like south end of Lower Campbell Lake, continued through burned lands and second growth to vault Quinsam River and sweep on south at speed of from one to seven miles an hour until it now menaces Comox Logging Company Camp 3 and headquarters. The arrow indicates where 40,000,000 feet of bucked logs went up in a devil's bonfire this morning.

40 Million Feet of Logs Gulped by Raging Blaze

Forest Fire's Roar Can Be Heard Two Miles.

PEOPLE SAFE

(See Map on Page 6.)

VICTORIA, July 22.—Premier T. D. Pattullo will speak on the air over a province-wide hook-up tonight at 7:30 o'clock on the forest fire situation in British Columbia.

Daily Province Staff Correspondent

HEADQUARTERS CAMP, (8 miles north of Courtenay), July 22.—With a roar that could be heard several miles away, the great Vancouver Island fire at noon today was consuming 40,000,000 feet of cut timber and speeding southward toward this camp and the settled districts to the south.

The 40,000,000 feet is worth about $350,000.

Famous Forbidden Plateau country was under definite threat today from the fire, which has increased its area by one-third in the past twenty-four hours.

It all depends now on which side of Constitution Hill, west of Wolf Lake, the flames make their course.

If they beat their way through the standing timber west of the hill, there is a definite danger to the vast stands of Forbidden Plateau.

FARMS IN PATH.

If the fire remains to the east of Constitution Hill, settled country on Dove Creek is in its path.

This large headquarters camp of the Comox Logging Co. may be the scene of a desperate fight this afternoon. The camp has been evacuted and is now a fire-fighting headquarters.

Hoses are being played on the roofs of the buildings and a large crew of picked men are on hand to defend the property.

Meantime the country must write off as lost the 40,000,000 feet of cut timber north of Constitution Hill and is in grave danger of losing another 30,000,000 feet along Cariboo Creek.

THREE MILES AWAY.

The fire is from two to three miles north of this headquarters where Robert Filberg, general superintendent of Comox Logging Co., is directing the fight.

The fire which is now consuming the cut timber and fresh green slash in the Tsolum Creek area, is probably the fiercest of the big fire to date.

Under present conditions it is impossible for men to do anything but watch its course and hope for an opportunity to make a stand.

Any of the fire-fighting crew here, husky, grinning loggers, were ready to bet even money they could save this camp. The camp stands in an area of close, second-growth, approximately 20 feet high.

ORDERED TO SAFETY.

The country east and south of here contains a number of

FIRES

(Continued from Page 1.)

ported men have proved themselves in the woods and are being held on the job.

Dismissals are not confined to the men imported from Vancouver. Firefighters from the local district have been fired in many instances when found loafing on the jobs.

One of the greatest aids in fighting this great Vancouver Island fire is the triangle of portable wireless station, which is now based at headquarters, Campbell River, Elk River Timber Co. camp 8, northwest corner of the fire, and on the southern head.

Naval telegraphists from the Canadian destroyers in Duncan Bay operate this wireless apparatus and have won high praise for their work.

Daily Province July 22

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ORDERED TO SAFETY.

The country east and south of here contains a number of settlers. All these people who are even remotely in the path of this fire have been ordered out to safety.

There was no hurried fleeing before the flames. All people have been warned in plenty of time to make an orderly retreat and to save considerable of their personal effects.

The fire had not yet actually reached any settlement.

All settlers in the area immediately south of the fire have been ordered out. Farther to the south they have been warned to be ready to move.

Small loggers in the area north of Courtenay are moving equipment out of the woods.

Weeding out of fire-fighting gangs continues.

At least eighty more men will be sent back to Vancouver. Thirty were despatched from here Thursday afternoon.

A small percentage of the im-

(Continued on Page 6.)
See FIRES.

Miracle Saves Fortune In Logs From Maw of Advancing Fire

Fire Advanced Within Fifteen Feet of Elk River Timber Company's Vast Cold Decks.

By TORCHY ANDERSON.
(Daily Province Staff Correspondent.)

CAMPBELL RIVER, July 22.—A miracle happened on the northwest corner of the great Vancouver Island fire on Thursday afternoon.

Flames leaped to within fifteen feet of slash which would have carried them to 30,000,000 feet of cold-decked logs of Elk River Timber Company. But the flames went no farther.

The logs lay like haycocks—and just as dry—in an area of 1500 acres where they had been logged.

The fifty men of a picked E. R. T. crew which fought the fire, along with the men who had their hands on throttles of panting "locies" (timber railway locomotives) which brought up water tank cars, are witnesses to the miracle. They were too busy fighting fire to know how it happened—but it did.

NASTY TRIP.

I drove through the fire line west of this town on Thursday night, through twelve miles of smouldering, reeking burn, to hear this miracle story. Cars and trucks on official business are making the trip, but its journey through smoke with blazing aftermath snapping at the hubcaps and glowing deadfalls crowding you to the road edge.

The run from Quinsam bridge, west of this town, to Forbes Landing and on to Camp Eight of E. R. T. is not without embarrassing and slightly warming possibilities.

It is not the only road west, for the E. R. T. gangs have replaced the eighty-pound rails that were curled like horseshoes, and their logging railway west of Campbell River to their Camp Eight is, at this writing, in service.

ALL THAT'S LEFT.

A stone chimney—at least part of it—stands in a pile of hot rubble. That marks the hearth of the old Forbes Landing hotel, where countless fishermen have stretched their limbs of an evening and told the tale.

(Continued on Page 6.)
See MIRACLE.

MIRACLE

(Continued from Page 1.)

I stopped at the Landing to see the place of peaceful beauty that I had known as a fire headquarters on Monday night. I stopped to see the scorched firs, the two log shacks that had survived the flaming sweep, the car that had burned in the underbrush, the cars and trucks safe half submerged in the lake.

The floats are there and to them tied the gay, inviting boats, but tragedy hovers like the giant eagles overhead, circling in anger at being driven from their home.

Next a trip through the treed, banked highway westward. There is a smouldering threat here, an occasional blaze.

VISITS CAMP EIGHT.

Then Camp Eight, sheltering its 350 inhabitants.

Against the evening quiet of Echo Lake the lights of Camp Eight shine brightly. The community hums with purposeful activity.

On Thursday these men prevented a great conflagration which might have added to the burden of fighters on the south. By the time you read this they may have to fight it all over again.

There is not much water in this area. Last evening we drove through some of the caterpillar trails that have been made to fight the fire.

There are spaces of desolate destruction alternating with spaces where bewildered deer spring at approach of men, but the birds sing a plaintive, welcoming song.

Origin of Forest Fires

THE story of the firing line on Vancouver Island makes exciting reading for the people of British Columbia. It is now a story of fire out of control in the great timber limits, with men working double tides, in hundreds, to save human settlements and to save the forests and the industry by which these settlements have their being.

Who is to blame for the fires, and what, if anything, is wrong?

Satisfactory answers can not be given. There are too many considerations that can not be honestly ignored. But this is true, that these great and destructive

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Satisfactory answers can not be given. There are too many considerations that can not be honestly ignored. But this is true, that these great and destructive fires mainly go back to conditions general and probably inevitable in the present organization of the lumber industry and the present constitution of society.

But it does not mean, because these present great fires originated in active logging operations, or because, as it is probable, the worst fires get out of control in the "slash" of logged-off forest, that the loggers are really to blame.

It is a fact that anyone who knows the logging camps can attest, that the loggers themselves try to take every precaution in the summer woods. Most of the companies would fire a man for smoking on the job; some of them will not even sell their men matches in the company stores. The operating loggers would be madmen if they did not try to prevent forest fires, from which they must always be the immediate and the worst sufferers.

What is probably true is that, in the midsummer months, there should be a holiday in the woods as there is holiday from school. This year, as it is no secret, great official pressure was brought to bear on the logging companies to carry on their operations.

And the reason for this, even if it turns out to have been ill-advised, was not lacking in force. It was only that the government preferred to relax the ultimate severity of regulations which would have closed the camps altogether during the dry spell rather than have an addition of four or five thousand men to the unemployed lists.

Nuns Pray For End of Fire

Lourdes Hospital at Campbell River Is Peaceful Haven from the Storm and Stress of Battle.

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent

CAMPBELL RIVER, July 22.—Above the tumult of this town, turned into a forest fire battle headquarters, stands the peaceful Lourdes Hospital.

Adjacent to that hospital, in a quiet chapel, sisters of Ste. Anne's pray continuously that the scourge of fire may be abated. Sisters of the order in Vancouver and Victoria join in their prayers.

Entering the door of this hospital is like finding a strange, perfect calm after a storm.

Outside again you are in the roaring tumult of men whose taut nerves are strung to the last pitch of endurance.

Less than a quarter of a mile away, exhausted men snatch a few hours' sleep.

The sisters keep their vigil of prayer.

Sightseeng Trip in Hell

Andy and His Pal, "Waggo," Win Reputations As the Great Fire's Original Asbestos Men.

By TORCHY ANDERSON.
(Daily Province Staff Correspondent.)

CAMP Eight, Sunday Night.—Up in this busy community on the northwest corner of the great Vancouver Island fire there is a "locie" from which all the paint has been blistered.

If you ran into Andy Teak, engineer, and "Waggo" Wayne, who acted as brakeman, and asked them about their repeated trips through a cut which turned itself into a veritable outdoor furnace on Friday afternoon, Andy and "Waggo" would remark, "Well, she was fair to middlin' hot."

The writer did not have the task of trying to dig this story from Andy and Waggo. He got it from a man who stood on the bank watching their locomotive patrol save hundreds of thousands worth of cut timber.

Fire was across the tracks of the logging railways from unburned slash which lay like trail of tinder to the cold decks, while millions of feet of ready-to-market timber needed only a cross look to touch them off.

HEAT IGNITES IT.

It was fifty feet from the burning side to the great piles of kindling that lay inviting a spark. The fire jumped and the slash literally exploded along a front of 200 feet.

Those who watched swear that there was no spark jump, it was simply a case of heat so intense that it ignited slash fifty feet distant.

You might say that the railway track which lay between was a fairly uncomfortable spot.

Andy and Waggo put their locie through that blistering oven fifteen times, each time pumping water on the threatening burn.

"I don't know how they did it," said the responsible officer who told the tale. "It was one of the most unbelievably brave things I have ever seen. Those boys must be made of asbestos."

THEY GOT CREDIT.

They say the other day that a miracle saved a small fortune in cut timber on this operation. Maybe there was another miracle on Friday afternoon, but those who watched give the credit to Andy and Waggo, the boys (as their admirers say in their search for better metaphor) who ran a sight-seeing tour through hell.

PALOOKA

(Continued from Page 1.)

aires are asked to hunt for the lost girl.

Palooka and his loyal friend, nearly exhausted from their wanderings in the desert, finally arrived at a hidden city and learn to their chagrin that it is none other than the one presided over by Abi-Ben-Abou, the abductor. While in the city Joe agrees to a match with the Giant Berber, a half-human gorilla who fights for the sheik's rival, Sultan Jeb-All-trash. To the amazement of the onlookers, Palooka defeats his ferocious opponent.

Meanwhile, back in Fez, Moroccan headquarters of the Legion, a motion picture is shown in which Joe Palooka plays the lead, under his own name. Legion officials then realize that their "Private Smith" is the long-missing heavyweight champion.

PRESIDENT SAVES HIM.

They had previously sentenced

Smoke Almost Worse Than Blaze Itself

By ARTHUR W. MAYSE.
Daily Province Staff Correspondent.

COURTENAY, July 25. — There's something almost as appalling as mad cohorts of flame staggering down the hogbacks. It's smoke — miasma that fills each depression of a blasted land, stinging the eyes and blinding a man to what lies beyond its veil.

Early on Sunday morning I headed inland from Courtenay. Rumor that outraces the fire had centred around the small mining town of Bevan.

Bevan wasn't destroyed, and Bevan wasn't evacuated. Many of the houses boasted automobiles parked close to the doors. On a spur of the colliery railway which passes through the town, two box-cars and a string of flats had been spotted for emergency.

HE'S NOT SCARED.

But a youngster bringing in cows gave me a cheery grin and said, "Naw, we aren't scared here." No wind stirred. Smoke lay over Bevan in a thin mist.

Back then to where Forbidden Plateau road winds its bewildering course inland. Up the road, switchback following switchback in a zig-zag climb. Eugene Croteau, lodgekeeper of Forbidden Plateau, who carries the courtliness of Old France, had shepherded the last of his charges off the plateau by trail. Clinton Wood remained at his resort with the fire some where below him.

I stopped at one of the comparatively few level places high on the plateau road. South, smoke filtered over the logged-off lands and among the gaunt snags. North, away it hung in a choking fog. It sinuated its fingers among the boles of a block of scrubby timber. Feet of the side hills were set in a grey sea. The sky overhead was solid with smoke, and the sun had apparently died aborning.

STILL THE SMOKE.

Cruising east again, toward the friendly lands of the coast, I paused to pass the time of day with a patrolman on the long bridge that spans the Puntledge River out of Courtenay.

"Fire front is somewhere off in that direction," he said, nodding vaguely toward the north

SPIRITUAL AID —PASTORS SAY

Necessity for Deeper Religious Thought Stressed Here.

Need of repentance on the part of individual men and women if nations are to be saved from destruction, as well as a need for a revival in spiritual things apart from the material world, were points stressed in sermons from Vancouver pulpits Sunday.

Though Jesus Christ often spoke to the multitude, He never lost sight of the individual and his needs. He began His ministry with an individual call to repentance. This involved a change of mind, declared Rev. W. A. Cameron, D.S., Central Presbyterian Church, in a sermon Sunday morning.

WAR AND LOCUSTS.

Speaking at the evening service at First Baptist Church, Rev. Elbert Paul declared the conditions of war, unemployment and social unrest through which the world was now passing, might be compared to a plague of locusts, and that God alone could bring about the recovery of nations and individuals so sadly afflicted.

He said God was calling on them to repent and return to Him that He might heal the lands of the ills which their sin had brought.

True rest can only be found in closer communion with God, declared Dr. H. H. Bingham of Toronto, preaching in Grandview Baptist Church, Sunday. It is amazing with what patience people think out how to seek relaxation and rest during the summer days, he said. It is a good thing at times to loiter and to find leisure, but man needs more than physical recreation. He needs to find the rest points of life, which will give him poise and purposefulness.

Today man stands in great need for the rest points of life, for life has lost its significance. People have become weary in the struggle and the song has gone out of the life of many. If ever the world needed poise and sanity it is now.

FIRE

(Continued from Page 1.)

it registered 93 and the humidity stood at 20—almost a new low.

Fire does not need much wind to play the devil on a day like that. Once started it creates its own spanking breeze and boils away in growth sucked dry of moisture.

On the new front north of Courtenay, forestry officers are delighted with progress made during the lull of the week-end. The fire progressed southward perhaps half a mile on a narrow spearhead during Sunday, but is still well north of the settlements. Only one building, a shack, was reported destroyed in this area on Sunday.

SMOKE TOO THICK.

Smoke was thick on parts of the highway on Sunday evening and autos had lights on long before dark. In some places visibility was less than 100 feet.

The Comox Logging Railway can only be of assistance for a limited distance, owing to the destruction of the bridge over the Upper Custer

CITY LEADER—Leader in Vancouver Central district in the junior matriculation examinations is Edward Gross (above), son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Gross, 1420 Adanac street. He attends Britannia High School.

HOBBS

(Continued from Page 1.)

was bowling bad balls with the good ones, and Hammond could only use him in short spells. Farnes was a good bowler all through the match—far better than at Lord's. Bows, too, was far better in the first inning than his figures would indicate. He was used in long spells because his length was excellent and he kept down the score.

I don't think England can complain about the bad luck. Rockley Wilson, old Yorkshire bowler remarked to me, "the only thing that didn't 'come' for Australia were the balls."

He was referring to two occasions when their bowlers hit the stumps but the bails didn't drop off.

PRAISES SKIPPERS.

I should like to praise the rival captains. Some skippers make a great deal of fuss when

They say the ... miracle saved a small fortune in cut timber on this operation. Maybe there was another miracle on Friday afternoon, but those who watched give the credit to Andy and Waggo, the boys (as their admirers say in their search for better metaphor) who ran a sight-seeing tour through hell.

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PRESIDENT SAVES HIM.

They had previously sentenced Palooka and Smokey to be killed as deserters. Knobby Walsh, back in the United States, is advised by a private detective of Joe's whereabouts, and of the danger he is in. Nobby asks President Roosevelt to intercede, which he does, and secures pardons for both Joe and Smokey. Never before was an incumbent President of the United States characterized in a comic strip.

When Knobby reaches the Le-

here." No wind stirred. Smoke lay over Bevan in a thin mist.

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STILL THE SMOKE.

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"Fire front is somewhere off in that direction," he said, nodding vaguely toward the northwest. "She's burning maybe a mile and a half from here."

Then, still looking to the same quarter, "You can't see anything plain. I wish this smoke would lift."

People have become weary ... struggle and the song has gone out of the life of many. If ever the world needed poise and sanity it is now.

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Inspector Robert "Bob" Owens and Sergeant Dan Tweedhope of the Provincial Police conducted an aerial survey of the entire fire area Sunday afternoon with Pilot Ted Dobbin. They report that "things look very favorable," but add that if a northwest wind again cuts loose, there may be trouble back of Campbell River.

* * *

H.M.S. York steamed down the smoke-shrouded coast Sunday afternoon after offering to lend assistance which was not needed at present.

* * *

Adelarde Bellevance of Campbell River was fined $25 or ten days in jail for refusing to fight forest fire when called upon. The magistrate made him go into the fire line to earn the $28.75, which represents fine and costs.

* * *

Fifty more men were taken from the fighting line on Sunday afternoon and returned to Vancouver, their point of engagement.

* * *

There was a heavy dew over the fire area on Sunday morning, but it was licked away in minutes. Forestry officers and loggers don't bother looking for the weather report any more. They know it will be a repetition of the deadly "continued heat, dry." Even a cloudy day would be a godsend to those fighting the fire.

* * *

Fifty sailors from H.M.C.S. Fraser went into the line on the front near Courtenay on Sunday. They have been making patrols through the settlements for several days and are now to engage in actual fire fighting. Today a number of skilled mechanics from the ships took charge of pumps on the defense lines.

H.M.C.S. Armentieres steamed up the coast on Sunday, and after landing a large shipment of buckets at Comox, proceeded to a station off Campbell River.

Extent of the Damage

The loss in cut timber has been large. Bloedel's estimate some 20 million feet of their cold decked and felled and bucked timber has gone up in smoke. The E.R.T. Co. has lost four or five cold decks. The extent of the loss to the Comox Logging Co. cannot yet be estimated. So far standing timber has not been damaged in any large quantities, though in the vicinity of Forbes Landing it has been damaged by ground fires to such an extent that it will soon die, and the resort of Forbes Landing is a heap of charred ruins. Game has been destroyed to such an extent that only a rigid closed season for some years in this part of Vancouver Island will bring it back. The summer tourist season on which the residents of Campbell River depend to a large extent has been completely ruined. At Black Creek and Dove Creek, small farming communities, the inhabitants have been evacuated and brought to Courtenay with their household goods. The bill for this, which presumably will be footed by the public, will be large when the cost of returning them home is added. These are the material damages to date. If the wind rises again to the proportions of last week there will undoubtedly be more and far more serious damage.

The Human Elements

Now for the human elements involved. Some two hundred single unemployed men were shipped from Vancouver to fight fire. Most of these have now been returned to Vancouver under suspicion of sabotage and with the stigma of malingering. To deal first with the malingering and loafing charge.

I think it is quite possible that many of these men did spend a lot of their time loafing—so on their own say, did many of the local men and local loggers hired by the companies. People who have not experienced it do not always realize that a large part of the time in fire fighting is spent in waiting for something to happen. However, let us grant that the chances are that the single unemployed did more and better loafing—should we be surprised? Many of them are in no fit physical condition for work of this nature. One lad was taken to the hospital suffering from cramps and the case was diagnosed as prolonged undernourishment. In addition ot this it seems hardly reasonable that men for whom present day society seems to have no use should unduly exert themselves for twenty-five cents an hour, less a dollar a day for board, in order to save the assets of corporations who have been allowed to possess themselves of a large share of our natural resources, and whose treatment of those resources has been such as to bring the major industry of this province to the verge of exhaustion. And yet in spite of all this it is readily admitted by forestry officials, loggers and provincial police that a great many of these men did excellent work. One cannot help but feel that society as exemplified by the province of British Columbia received from these men far more than it deserved.

(Continued on page 5)

Question of Sabotage

Now we come to the question of sabotage ,of which so much has been made. I have spent the last four or five days attempting to find the evidence to support this charge. Invariably I have run up against a stone wall. Time and again I have found that the man who was supposed to have seen hose being cut did not himself see it but knew of someone else who had heard of another man who had seen it done. I am still looking for that other man. I have been shown hose that had been cut in some way. Some of the cuts looked like knife cuts, but I am not sufficiently expert to say they were knife cuts; and with all due respect to the Forestry officials I doubt if they are sufficiently expert to say so either. On the other hand I have had several men come to me to say they have seen longitudonal cuts made in hose by trucks passing over them when they were under pressure, and cross section cuts made by the hose being kinked when the pressure was put on. One man who was sent down with the first thirty from Campbell River admitted to me that he had cut hose with an axe when chopping at a root. I am not saying that I know that hose has not been deliberately cut, but I do say it has not yet been proved and that no attempt appears to have been made to prove it. At the time thirty men were shipped out of Campbell River under suspicion of hose cutting a senior forestry official told me that there was on the fire line a man who declared he could identify a hose-cutter. I asked that this man be brought down from the line in order that the culprit might be identified if he were one of the thirty men and dealt with before he and his companions were shipped out. My request was refused, and the only possible chance of which I am aware of proving this alleged sabotage as the act of one of the single unemployed has been passed up. Despite the fact that in the days following this incident the daily press has carried statements and stories of a nature extremely derogatory to the single unemployed, I am not aware of any attempt on the part of the authorities to either clear the men or prove the charges.

Loose Statements Made

There has also been a lot of loose talk and loose writing on the subject of sugar in one of the pumps. The press reports the premier as referring to pumps. Up here in Comox in spite of our busy rumor factory only one pump has been mentioned, that at Forbes Landing. The blame for this has been placed by inference at least on the tincanners—although in the course of a telephone conversation today with Mr. Manning, the Chief Forester, he told me that in a press statement he has said that forestry officials have no evidence to lead them to believe that it was done by the Vancouver men. I have not myself seen the sugar. I have however been told by a forestry official that there has been trouble with a number of pumps seizing owing to faulty lubrication directions.

There may or may not have actually been sugar in the pump. The thing the public should know is that these pumps have been in the charge either of lumber company employees or local pumpmen —the tincanners have never been given jobs on the pumps.

Surely it is not unreasonable to suggest that the guardianship of this particular pump can and should be checked for the whole of the period during which the alleged doctoring took place.

Dangerous Charges

A campaign of this sort mischievous as it is and potentially extremely dangerous does of course serve a certain purpose. It tends to divert the public mind from the thousands of acres of slash—the accumulation of years of neglect, which has provided the fuel to sweep this fire down the island. It is to be hoped that the people

The Federationist
July 28, 1938.

Truth About Island Fire

By COLIN CAMERON, M.L.A.

SOMEONE has said there are "sermons in stones"; likewise there are lessons to be learned in forest fires—even in a completely disastrous affair such as we have now on Vancouver Island. To learn those lessons it is necessary to examine the causes of the fire, and the actions of various personalities connected with the organization of fire fighting. The other day when I returned from the Elk River Timber Co.'s Camp 8 past the ruins of Forbes Landing, through the desolation which the fire has left in its wake for miles, I found myself wishing that the persons responsible might have but one neck between them, so that an impoverished province could save money on the rope. In the course of discussion with some of the residents of Campbell River I expressed this wish.

Colin Cameron, CCF M.L.A., Comox, who writes the accompanying article, has been aiding fire fighters on Vancouver Island since the outbreak of the blaze.

Some blamed the logging operators who continued logging in the midst of the most dangerous fire season the province has known for many years. Others disputed this and placed the blame on the provincial government for not having stopped the logging operations. The discussion ended in a shocked silence when one cynical soul remarked that he could see little sense in getting annoyed with Charlie McCarthy and smiling affably on Bergen.

And perhaps that piece of cynicism, as cynicism often does, really hits the nail on the head. Anyone who followed the proceedings of the provincial House last fall with regard to forestry, could have little doubt that there were powerful influences at work to prevent any effective action being taken to control logging in this province.

True enough the speech of Mr. E. C. Manning, the Chief Forester to the Forestry Committee of the legislature, so shocked the public that the government was obliged to amend the Forest Act and place more power, on paper, in the hands of the Forest Branch.

Legislation Nullified

What the public do not perhaps realize is that this legislation was to all intents and purposes nullified by the failure to provide the funds necessary to implement it. Why this was done is of course a matter of opinion. No doubt the government will say there were no funds available for it—but funds have had to be found to fight this fire and are still being found, and the bill when presented will be no doubt a staggering one.

It is at least possible that there was some connection between the decision not to increase the Forest Branch estimates and the presence of a lobby from the B.C. Loggers Association in Victoria at that time.

Be all this as it may, the facts are that fire started in a certain logging company's operations and was presumed to have been brought under control. That logging company proceeded to operate again and the fire took a new lease of life and has travelled nearly thirty miles down Vancouver Island. Wind and weather conditions have been such that it has been virtually impossible to check it except in one or two places.

(next page)

40 013739 3

PRESS RELEASE Aug. 9, 1938.

by the

Hon. A. Wells Gray, Minister of Lands

The extreme fire hazard of the past two months, more especially in the Vancouver Island and Coast region, resulting in several disastrous fires, has served, amongst other things, to focus the attention of the Government on the problem of forest regeneration. Several fires, notably that in the Campbell River-Courtenay district, have burned over large areas, destroying young growth and, perhaps more important, scattered bodies of seed trees. With the young growth destroyed and source of seed removed, these areas, constituting some of the best growing sites of the Pacific Northwest, have been denuded for generations to come unless some active steps are taken to replace them by planting. With this in view it is intended to increase our planting programme very materially.

The first experimental forest tree nurseries in British Columbia were established by the Forest Service in 1927. Within the course of a few years this work was concentrated on the nursery site located at Green Timbers south of New Westminster. Methods of production and handling have been greatly improved through the medium of a restricted production programme until at the present time this nursery is capable of the most economical production of planting stock. The present schedule of approximately 5 million trees per year can be stepped up to a maximum of 8 million trees and with some additional land-clearing to about 10 million. Suitable nursery areas will be examined on the Island in the immediate vicinity of the denuded areas with a view to selecting sites for supplementary local nurseries. It requires two years to produce planting stock and extra seed collections are being made with a view to this increased production at the present time.

Exact plans will have to await some detailed examinations of the areas involved but it seems possible that we can be planting up to 10,000 acres per year in the course of the next two years and this programme can be largely increased if desirable in the light of more exact information to be collected.

Incident to this planting programme much relief labour can be utilized during the winter months in preparation of the planting sites. It is also proposed to supply planting, free at the Nursery, to any rancher who desires to restock denuded forest soil on his ranch under Forest Service supervision.

MEMORANDUM

1309457

35

FROM DISTRICT FORESTER

Vancouver, B.C.

August 10, 1938.

The Chief Forester,

Parliament Buildings,

VICTORIA, B. C.

Your File: 0131739

My File: OF #230, Bloedel

re yours of

LANDS DEPARTMENT
Forest Branch
AUG 11 1938
VICTORIA, B. C.

Attention Mr. Orchard

Kindly refer to our letter of the 4th instant.

At the time we forwarded you the list of Vancouver men sent up to Campbell River on the Bloedel Fire, we did not think it necessary to keep a copy on file. Now, however, we have need of this information and would appreciate it very much if you would kindly have three copies made and forward them to this office by return if possible.

C. C. Ternan,
Asst. District Forester.

Vancouver, B.C. August 11, 1938.

42

10th inst. OF #230 - Bloedel

Attention Mr. C.C. Ternan

As requested in your letter of yesterday, we are attaching 3 copies of the list of men sent from Vancouver to Campbell River on the Bloedel Fire.

T.A. Simmons,
for Forester.

TAS:KR
Encls. 3.

0131739.

43

1309448

37

The TIMBERMAN
AN INTERNATIONAL LUMBER JOURNAL

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

August 10, 1938

073739

FOREST SERVICE
AUG 11 1938

Mr. E. C. Manning
Chief Forester
Victoria, British Columbia

My dear Mr. Manning:

We would very much appreciate help from your forestry department in obtaining some general information on the recent fire on Vancouver Island in the vicinity of Campbell Lake.

Could you tell us the approximate area burned over, amount of green timber burned and quantity of down and bucked timber destroyed. Was there any logging equipment destroyed? Whose logging operations were involved?

Would appreciate any general information regarding the fire.

Very cordially,

35 mm x 4 m.

THE TIMBERMAN,

David Davis

David Davis,
Associate Editor.

DD m

44

August 12, 1938

File: 0131739

The Timberman,
623 S.W. Oak St.,
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Sirs:

Your letter to Mr. Manning, re the recent fire near Campbell River, has been handed me for attention, and in this connection I would advise that we have not yet had our final report, and therefore cannot give you accurate information. The fire is still burning and probably will not be finally reported upon until October or November.

However, I might advise that it is approximately 35 miles long by an average of about 4 miles wide, burnt largely in logged over country. The large logging companies involved were the Bloedell, Stewart & Welch Ltd., the Elk River Timber Co. Ltd., and the Comox Logging & Railway Co. Ltd. There was practically no logging equipment destroyed, but considerable quantities of felled and bucked timber, particulars of which we do not yet know.

I am sorry that we cannot give you any fuller information at the present time and trust the above will be of some use.

Yours truly,

GPM/WO

Geo. P. Melrose,
Forester.

VANCOUVER, B. C.

45

August 17, 1938.

OF #230, Bloedel.

We understand that the Provincial Police, Courtenay detachment have forwarded to you all the accounts for truck hire in connection with the evacuation of certain residents who were within the fire area.

Will you please send them to this office and we will turn them over to the Provincial Secretary's Department whom we understand are prepared to take care of payment.

T. A. Simmons,
for Forester.

TAS:DC

0131739

46

August 17, 1938
File: 0131739

Lieutenant-Commander E.P. Tisdall, R.C.N.,
H.M.C.S. "Fraser",
Naval Dockyard,
ESQUIMALT, B. C.

Dear Sir:

As promised I am enclosing a map of the Courtenay-Campbell River Section of Vancouver Island which I hope will be useful to you.

May I at this time express to you and the men under you my personal appreciation and that of the Forest Service for the assistance you gave us at the time of the Campbell River-Courtenay fire. This assistance was not only in the form of fire patrol, fire fighting and evacuating some of the settlers, which was so well organized and ably carried out but also in the feeling of security given the Public by your presence.

I trust that we may meet again before long and in the meantime please accept this map with my compliments.

Yours truly,

Geo. P. Melrose
F O R E S T E R

Enc.1.
GPM/MM

47

August 18, 1938.

File: 0131739.

Commander H.E. Reid, R.C.N.,
H.M.C.S. "Fraser",
Naval Dockyard,
Esquimalt, B.C.

Dear Commander Reid:

Mr. Melrose and Mr. Haddon have reported to me the great assistance rendered them and the public generally by you and the crews of your three ships on the occasion of the recent forest fires at Campbell River and Courtenay.

The feeling of security given the public by the presence of your vessels was valuable but still more was the well organized and able work done by the ships' crews at Courtenay under Lieutenant-Commander Tisdall and Sub-Lieutenant Rutherford.

On behalf of the Forest Service I wish to express to you our appreciation of the co-operation given us at a time when our resources were taxed to the limit in dealing with a difficult situation.

Yours very truly,

Chief Forester.

KR

Copy sent to D.F., Vancouver.

★ 10M-1135-6473

MEMORANDUM

1311050

TO Chief Forester,
Victoria.

Refer to yours of

FROM DISTRICT FORESTER
Vancouver, B.C.
Aug. 17 1938

Your File: 0131739
My File: O.F. Bloedel #230

1311050

Attention Operation

As instructed by Mr. G.P. Melrose, attached please find the following accounts in connection with the evacuation at Bloedel Fire:-

John Picketti	$ 64.00
Tyee Freight Service	50.00
W.T. Mudge	17.00
G.A. Kirk	68.80
Joe Hornby	75.00
Royston Lumber Co.	141.75
Hutton Lumber Co. Ltd.	48.00
Creech Bros.	6.00
Arthur Hitchen	18.75
Charles Dalton	65.00
G. Browning	12.00

$586.30

These accounts, we understand, are to be paid by the Provincial Secretary's Office and should be handed to the Deputy Provincial Secretary at Victoria.

E.P. Fox,
Chief Clerk.

HJD:DR
Encl.

Geo: Do you wish to handle these? G.

VANCOUVER, B. C.

August 19, 1938.

O.Fire No.230 Bloedel

Enclosed please find copy of letter from Mr. P. Le Mare with reference to wages due on the above fire.

Will you please investigate this matter and let us have your report at your earliest convenience.

TAS
EEG:DC

E. E. Gregg,
Assistant Forester.

0131739.