

FOREST PRODUCTS, MINERALS

Export outlook termed gloomy

VANCOUVER (CP) — Long-term prospects for exports of minerals and forest products are gloomy, two industry spokesmen said Monday.

Jack Butterfield, director of mining for Placer Development Ltd., and Jack Croll, director of financial services for MacMillan Bloedel Ltd., spoke to a board of trade seminar.

Mr. Butterfield said the Canadian share of world mineral production and exports will decrease over the long term, with the gross probably averaging less than three per cent annually.

"This is in sharp contrast to the more favorable period, 1950-1974, when the real gross averaged about six per cent."

He said if the gross of the Canadian industry kept pace with world demand, the value of Canadian output would reach \$15 billion by the year 2000.

He said the investment climate for minerals in Canada is considered poor because it is difficult to find Canadians who will work in remote areas.

"Taxation is probably the most serious factor. The current apparent rate of tax is 50 to 90 per cent, depending on prices, the minerals involved and the province."

Mr. Butterfield said another problem was the "capricious nature of government, particularly in relation to taxation."

He also said the developed world "may be unable to generate the amount of capital which is necessary to undertake all the capital projects which the world requires."

Mr. Croll said the potential of Russian competition in forestry is a growing concern for Canadian forest companies. The USSR has 14.7 trillion board feet of the world's softwood

timber, compared with North America's 8.7 board feet, Mr. Croll said.

He said the exportation of Canadian forestry technology to Russia generates no further Canadian business.

Mr. Croll also said the Canadian industry is concerned about fast-growing species of timber, a competitive threat which is long-term but real.

He also said American tax policies allow companies to generate more capital to replace facilities.

"If they are unable to generate or otherwise develop the capital they need, Canadian producers will have to manufacture their products with older and less efficient equipment, and as a consequence, at a higher unit cost," he said.

"Canadian industry must receive the same recognition of its need for

capital and be allowed to generate that capital through a tax system that will allow it to maintain its competitiveness, Mr. Croll said.

J. M. McAvity, president of the Canadian Export Association, told the seminar that the association's preliminary survey of exporters showed there is deep concern at the implications of the federal government's planned export levy.

"We have had figures from 12 companies which suggest that the effects will be very serious," said Mr. McAvity. "These 12 alone report that the levy will mean 3,000 jobs becoming vacant and potential export income of \$210 million being lost."

Mr. McAvity said the existing system of export and import licences already gives more than adequate protection with respect to serving the domestic market first.



Groovy Guru

An admiring daughter, Indira, played by Barbara Morrow, watches as her guru father, Bas Rynsewyn, startles commune dwellers during the Duchess Park Secondary School presentation of *That Groovy Guru*. The family comedy show will be performed at the Prince George Playhouse Wednesday to Sunday. It involves about 30 secondary school students from Grades 8 to 12.

Pen hostage death inquest to proceed

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. (CP) — Coroner Doug Jack said Monday he will start an inquest into the death of a British Columbia penitentiary employee in March, even though an important witness will probably be in a New Brunswick prison.

The witness, Andy Bruce, 27, is one of three B.C. penitentiary prisoners who grabbed three hostages at the prison on Thursday.

Bruce, Dwight Lucas, 21, and Dwight Lowe, 20, surrendered their weapons, five sharpened knives, and the hostages after prison officials agreed to some of their demands, including a transfer to Dorchester prison near Moncton, N.B.

The three were being held in Burnaby RCMP cells Monday, awaiting a flight.

They were to be flown out of Vancouver on Friday but Air Canada cancelled the reservations when the passengers on the regular scheduled flight swamped the airline with cancellations.

Lucas, Bruce and Clair Wilson were involved in the June,

1975, hostage-taking incident at the B.C. penitentiary in which classification officer Mary Steinhauer, 32, was killed.

She was fatally shot and Bruce was shot in the jaw when guards rushed the vault.

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FOOD PRICES STABLE

VANCOUVER (CP) — The federal anti-inflation board's monitor of British Columbia food prices has shown prices have remained stable following the removal last week of the provincial government's price freeze, board spokesman Jackie Watts said Monday.

The board's office here is keeping a close watch on prices of 100 food and non-food items monitored at five Vancouver supermarkets considered representative of B.C. supermarket chains, said Mrs. Watts.

"We have been pleasantly surprised and pleased to find prices remaining stable," she said.

'Dealers' stole aircraft

COQUITLAM, B.C. (CP) — The owner of a \$30,000 Cessna 210 aircraft stolen Jan. 21 from the airport at nearby Abbotsford says the plane apparently was stolen by drug dealers.

Jack Ingraham, of Coquitlam, said Monday that the plane was found abandoned at a remote airport 40 miles from Salinas, Calif., after he contacted all airports in Washington, Oregon and California offering a \$1,000 reward for the finder.

"Traces of heroin were found in the back seat," said Mr. Ingraham. "It looks like somebody brought the heroin in to Abbotsford and stole my plane to fly it to the U.S."

"I'm told it's a national pastime in the U.S. and that there are 200 Cessnas missing in California. Apparently they use them to drop drugs in the desert for picking up later."

Mr. Ingraham, a Coquitlam builder, said the FBI is looking for known suspects and have promised to notify him if anyone is charged.

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