2 - THE CITIZEN, Prince George - Monday, June 27, 1977

BCR's 'great fiasco' lost \$74m in 6 years

The royal commission on Fort Nelson have been laid off British Columbia Railway af- as mills seek alternative fairs was unable to discover at means of transportation. its hearing here Friday who the "someone on high" was made July 8, 1968. who gave the order to build the 250mile rail link from here to Fort St. John, B.C. Friday that they were given a tight completion time which

The hearing was told the extension was "one of the tember, 1971, when the line greatest railway fiascos of our time" and that in just six years of operation the line has run up \$74 million in losses, which represents \$100,000 for each of the 700 Fort Nelson jobs dependent on B.C. Rail.

The total loss projected by 1981 is \$111 million plus \$50 million for planned upgrading. The line has experienced a staggering 270 derailments in the last two years and a total of

75 operation disruptions. The latest, at Ellah Lake last were given by former B.C. Rail week, will put the line out of action for at least four weeks those orders originated. and could cost more than \$500,000 to repair. More than

ASHCROFT, B.C. (CP)

arson is now suspected by

fire authorities as the cause

of Thursday night's fire which devastated a block of

RCMP Sergeant Jim Aird

said a representative from

the provincial fire marshall's office found

indications that a flamm-

able material started the

blaze, which began in a

downtown Ashcroft.

Police said today

FORT NELSON, B.C. (CP) 130 lumber mill workers in

B.C. Rail officials testified

tight completion time which was apparently met by Sepwas ready for use.

said Ritchie. "As a manage-

ment group we were told to

build the extension at the same

time we were told to start the

work on the line toward Dease

Ritchie said instructions

Lake

ASHCROFT FIRE

Police suspect arson

small empty shed.

He said no official dam-

age estimate will be avail-able until next week. Eight

businesses and three dwel-

lings were destroyed in the

fire and police now say six

persons were left homeless.

Meanwhile, Mayor Mike

affected

Yewchin said council

decided Friday to help the

merchants

rebuild.

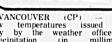
Gordon Ritchie, executive assistant to B.C. Rail vicepresident Mac Norris, said he had no idea who set the completion date in 1968. 'It was someone on high,"

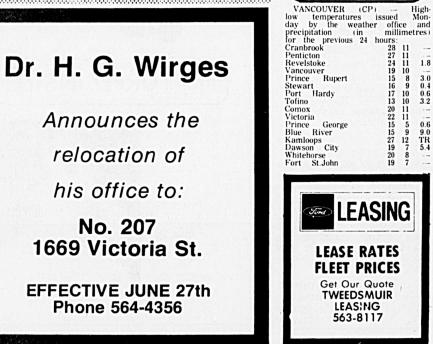
plywood was placed on one

vicepresident J. S. Broadbent but it was not known where greatest railroading fiascos of The Crown railway's board our time" and estimated it would cost \$375 million today to

> communitis along the B.C. Rail route which begins at North Vancouver and ends in this northern community. The

WEATHER





at the time included Social Credit cabinet ministers and was chaired by former pre-mier W. A. C. Bennett. Expected use of the line was

based on four studies, Ritchie said, which predicted B.C. Rail revenues of \$20 million by 1977. In reality, the projected revenue for this year stands at \$5 million.

Walter Shtenko, chief of the railway's engineering ser-vices, tesitified that problems increased on the line with the laying of track without ballasting. This created depressions. 'During the laying of steel,

large section of the grade under the ties in order to sustain the loads," said Shtenko, who added the line was so poor at one time that repair crews followed freight trains on the line and waited for derailments Shtenko agreed the line could be called "one of the

build the line from scratch. In other testimony Friday, Walter Young, B.C. Rail marketing director, said rail development emphasis has switched toward the south with the advent of coal developments and this means no new developments going ahead north of Fort Nelson. Friday's hearing marked the end of a 16-day tour of

hearings continue today in Vancouver.

Citizen photo by Dave Milne

Singer Pat Boone gestures to an enthusiastic Coliseum audience Friday night. Boone entertained about 2,500 people in a two-hour program of Christian songs and testimony

Weed program defended

She was referring to the efforts of the Okanagan Environmental Coalition to invisitors that some of the lakes in the valley have been treated with the herbicide.

Speaking at the 25th annual convention of the Florists' Transworld Delivery Associa-tion, she said, "go and tell your

who feel they can-

lake have been posted and fenced off to prevent the public from entering the water

Coalition spokesman Tina Kramer said Sunday that police have failed to patrol the area of Skaha Lake treated with 2,4-D and that eager swimmers have rolled up portions of the snow fence erected to keep them out.

Ms. Kramer said swimmers invaded the mile-long stretch of beach only hours after govThe Citizen

Provincial

HOTEL VANCOUVER

Picket violence prompts closure

VANCOUVER (CP) — Signs were posted on all doors at the \$20 million for renovations and Hotel Vancouver Sunday night will protect this investment. announcing that the building was closed. company refused to offer a Accommodation had been

wage increase in new contract proposals. The hotel offered a found for all but a handful of the guests at other hotels and dental plan and improved these will be gone in a day or working conditions but said a slump in the city hotel business two.

"Everything was very or-derly at the weekend as the last of the conventions ended and all of the delegates returned to their home town," a management spokesman said. A decision to close the hotel was made Friday when violence flared on the picket line

and hotel general manager Denis Buchanan said the clo-sure was in the interests of preventing injury or possible death.

It was the first time the hotel has closed since it opened in 1939 for the visit of George VI and Queen Elizabeth, mother

of the present queen. The hotel was built about 10 years earlier but never opened because of the Depression. Spokesmen for the 475 members of Canadian Brotherhood of Railway, Transport and General Workers local 275 which has been on strike since

June 12, say they don't believe the hotel will close permanently. They said Canadian Na-

Six killed accidentally in province

The Canadian Press At least six people died accidentally in British Columbia during the weekend, three by drowning and one in traffic. Another person died in a boating accident and a sixth person died when her parachute failed to open during a sport jump. Susane Aitzetmueller, 22, of Vancouver, died Saturday in the parachute mishap at the Fraser Valley community of Abbotsford. Police said she did

not pull her reserve chute in time after her main parachute became entangled in its lines. It was her first jump. **Gladys Marion Gillespie**, 64

farmworkers.

VANCOUVER (CP) - A nineyear hot declaration by

the British Columbia Federation of Labor on all California grapes was lifted Friday. Len Guy, secretary-treasurer of the labor federation, said United Farm Workers leader Cesar Chavez recently told the federation it would be appropriate to lift the ban following an agreement between the U.F.W.U. and the

'Racism fostered'

Teamsters Union over rep-

resentation of California

VANCOUVER (CP) - A Toronto lawyer said Friday that the federal government is encouraging discrimination by tostering the belief that

GRACE McCARTHY PENTICTON, B.C. (CP) — harass the people who do come the northeastern part of Skaha rovincial secretary Grace here." Provincial secretary Grace here." McCarthy said Sunday that criticism of the province's program to use 2,4-D on weeds in the Okanagan Lakes form Okanagan residents and amounts to harassment of tourists in the area.

Star

power

welcomes you.

The coalition, a group of citizens who opposed the use of tion, she said, "go and tell your friends that the Okanagan is beautiful close and tell your Eurasian milfoil water weed, beautiful, clean, and that it have indicated they will hand out pamphlets in the Okanagan "This part of the province is received bad publicity.... B.C. and Alberta warning

wages The hotel had hired nonunion workers to replace the strikers. No further talks are planned. The province

Social workers ask for delay

British Columbia Association of Social Workers called Friday for a three-month postponement of proposed provin-cial legislation to create

The social workers say B.C.'s experience with juvenile jails is dismal, and asked that proposed legisla-tion be reviewed by a legislative committee and regional

BRIEFLY VANCOUVER (CP) - The

The strike began when the

prevented an increase in

juvenile jails.

justice councils, which operate under the attorney-general's department. Grapes okay

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C	P AIR'S NON-	STOP SCHED	ULE TO VAN ARRIVE	
	1			etherene have and
FLIGHT	FREQUENCY	DEPART	ARRIVE	MEAL SERVICE
FLIGHT CP41/43	FREQUENCY DAILY EXCEPT SAT.	DEPART 9:10 a.m.	ARRIVE 10:10 a.m.	MEAL SERVICE COFFEE & DANISH
ELIGHT EP41/43 EP-16	FREQUENCY DAILY EXCEPT SAT. & SUN.	DEPART 9:10 a.m. 12:10 p.m.	ARRIVE 10:10 a.m. 1:10 p.m.	MEAL SERVICE COFFEE & DANISH HOT LUNCH

we with the water, but been used. r than leave, choose to

COHOL PROBLEM

Indians 'have to do job'

NCOUVER (CP) — The return to their reserves to do counselling on alcohol proband drug abuse program lems.

Friday white men can't "We were given alcohol," the Indian drinking prob-because "we have to do the ren't told how to use it. It's not ecause "we have to do the part of our culture.' urselves.'

chael Thrasher, conator for the prison prog- centres, Thrasher said and of the Nechi Institute on three alcohol treatment and Alcohol Abuse, was centres in Alberta that "are king to a graduating class always full."

Nechi trainees who will

have graduated from the 1976.

Nechi has three recovery three alcohol treatment

If the program is a success,

SEARS AD CORRECTION

June 22nd edition of the Citizen, the Sears advertisement for a 16 hp tractor, the tractor nsignia should read 16 hp not 18 hp as in picture.

We apologize for any inconvenience to our customers

Simpsons-Sears Ltd.

people that the chemical has ernment water with herbicide impre-The herbicide was put into gnated in clay pellets.

of Surrey, died following a twocar collision Saturday in Surrey.

immigrants worsen the unemployment situation. Charles Roach, an official of The body of Bradley Clarthe International Committee ence Longmore, 22, was reco-Against Racism, said people create jobs-"they tend to con-

sume just like everyone else. TOURIST

tus Lake, about five miles south of the Fraser Valley community of Chilliwack. RCMP recovered the body but VANCOUVER (CP) - Monwithheld the victim's name. day's tourist alert issued by A search was underway for the RCMP. Following persons

are asked to contact the nearest detachment of the RCMP for an urgent personal message:

Tom and Irene Britton of Centralia, Wash.

Timothy Douglas Harshbarger of Oregon

Vernon Gerald O'Shell of Vancouver

Alexander Gerald Shinn of Kelowna, B.C.

Damages may reach \$180,000

ALEXIS CREEK, B.C. (CP) - Police say damage to the historic Chilcotin Hotel, which burned to the ground early Saturday could go as high as \$180,000. A police spokesman said

cause of the fire is not yet known, but a fire inspector from Vancouver was to be in this Central Interior town today to investigate the blaze.

Police said the 50-yearold hotel was unoccupied when the fire broke out around 1:10 a.m. The adjacent Indian Health Services Hospital, which also was unoccupied, suffered damage to one wall. A store on the other side of the hotel suffered smoke damage. There were no injuries.

Police said the hotel owners have not decided whether to rebuild the three-storey structure.

1974 DODGE RAMCHARGER 4x4 V8, auto, ps, pb. \$3965 ONNAUGHT AUTO SALES 1795 Victoria Street Phone 562-1341

Seven Seas Travel 1488 Fourth Avenue 562-4374

CPAir

(Ground Floor Scotia Bank Building)





position or Regional Coordinator, Northern, B.C. Responsibilities to include liaison with, and development of, community volunteers as well as the promo-

tion of varied programs and services. Applicants should possess a good public speaking

ability, have a professional background, and should be prepared to travel when called upon.

Salary is competitive - attractive to university graduate.

Please phone 562-4767 for interview arrangements. Inquiries held in strict confidence.

Nechi program since April, Gordon Butler, director of the Pacific region medical services of Health and Welfare

someday he'll be out of a job,

Seventy-three counsellors

he told the graduates.

an 18-year-old man missing Canada, said all the governand presumed drowned in ment can do "is supply the Tzenzaicut Lake, 25 miles money so the Indians can help southwest of Quesnel in the themselves.' Cariboo. Police withheld the

Butler said that last week he name of the man, who went visited a reserve where a Nechi counsellor had just missing early Sunday. A 20-year-old Kelowna man started a program and "an Aldied Sunday in a boating accicoholics Anonymous had aldent on Okanagan Lake. Police ready been formed and seven withheld the name of the man, people were attending. who died after colliding with

'The only way to treat Inrocks while being towed in an dian alcohol abuse is to use Ininnertube by a speedboat. dian,"he said. "I don't think The Canadian Press survey, white people can do it.' from 6 p.m. Friday to midnight Nechi is an Alberta-based

Sunday local times, does not organization funded jointly by include murders, known suicides or industrial acci-Health-and Welfare and the department of Indian affairs. dents

