business

Tuesday, November 9, 1982 -9

DOWN FOR 10 MONTHS Kitwanga mill opens

Staff reporter

B.C. Timber's sawmill at Kitwanga has reopened with the help new machinery, a government training grant and the prospect of new mar-

kets. The mill, which had been producing lumber for North American customers since it opened in 1972, shut down last December because of poor markets, said Tom Haldane, acting mill man-ager. The mill operated operating, he said. for just one month this Canada Employment

year. The village, about 500 kilometres west of Centre in Terrace said Prince George, depends heavily on the mill for employment. B.C. Timber is now

dustries office in Prince trying to sell to the U.K. George who will be market. If they're sucworking with the emcessful, they'll receive a ployees and making sure higher price for their they understand specifiproducts. cations to The company has market. cations for the European

foresee a brave new

world in which we won't

have to carry folding

money or even step out

of the house to pay a bill, and all because of

from outer space, but banking jargon for elec-tronic fund transfer — a

computerized system

standing ready to re-

place our current dull

but reliable banking sys-

tem of passbooks and

the consumer be willing

to trade the banker's

pinstripes for the Green

Machine or other auto-

Canada's banking

fraternity spent the bet-

forget about Mary at the

machines (ATMs), such

Toronto Dominion and

mated services?

in EFT.

There's just one prob-lem with all the fancy as definiti new equipment — will property.

lunch-hour lineups.

That's not a visitor ers.

EFT

by BOB ROWLANDS bought new equipment including a chipper and a spray unit for treating lumber at an estimated cost of \$200,000.

David Mallet of the

Society without money

Banking Association's

planning committee for

EFT, told last week's

conference bankers had

better start explaining the new system in sim-

ple language to consum-

He said consumers

especially need to be reassured about security

because an electronic

impulse will eventually

take the place of a sig-

nature. The law will also

have to be rewritten in part to include clauses

dealing with such things

as definition of computer

Bankers point to the

convenience and savings

in service costs proided

by EFT. On top of that,

the brightly-colored ATMs are lots of fun to

Many fear a repeat of

In addition, although

banking jargon as cost-

use.

ter part of last week at a computer-age confer-ence to show just how to get their customers to

Royal or singing Anne Murray at the Com-merce and put our faith in EFT. Mary at the Com-sode of the late 1960s and 1970s, when similar machines were tried but

Part of EFT is already consumers wouldn't in use in the form of trust them and they automated teller were withdrawn.

as the Green Machine of ATMs are touted in

Instant-Teller of the Ca- effective, just how eco-

cannot contain bark, They have also rewormholes or pinholes, ceived a \$190,000 federal Haldane said. government grant for a

Inspectors Joe Char-trand and Nils Larsson will be in Kitwanga for 10-week training pro-gram for the employees, he said. about a week, but they Between 44 and 48 emwill return periodically to see how the program is progressing. Two suployees are on the training program now and 20 more will be involved pervisors from B.C. when the planer starts

Timber's Pohle and Skeena divisions in Terrace will also work on the training program.

Most of the training grant--\$180,000--will be part of the grant will be used to pay two quality control inspectors from used to pay employees, Mallet said.

the Council of Forest In-Earlier this fall, B.C. Timber offered to reopen the mill, provided the employees worked a nine-hour day with a 20per-cent reduction in hourly rates.

European countries are concerned about in-That was rejected, but employees will receive sects being introduced to forests so lumber training period-a mini-imported from Canada mum of \$12.50 an hour, he said, adding the Can-ada Employment and Immigration Commission is reimbursing B.C. Timber \$6.25 an hour for each employee.

Haldane said the training program ends Dec. 24, but what happens after that is not clear. The U.K. market,

which had been quite strong this year, became "rather quiet" in the past month after Scandinavian countries devalued their currencies, said Dan McCallum, B.C. Timber's vice-president of wood products marketing in Vancouver. As a result, Scandinavian lumber is more competitive and major U.K. buyers are re-evaluating their plans, he said. (Canada and Scandinavia are the major suppliers of lumber in Britain, along with the USSR.)

In the first nine months of this year, B.C. Timber lost \$60 million on its northern operations at Prince Rupert, Terrace, Kitwanga and Hazelton, the company said in a news release. That represents 80 per cent of the company's

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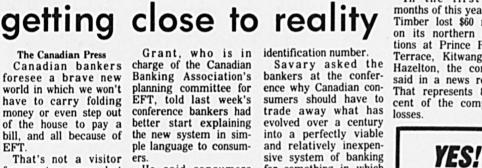
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sive system of banking for something in which their interests are thus far unprotected.

"Consumers are being asked to give up an ex-tremely satisfactory fi-nancial system for something which, to consumers, may or may not be of great benefit."

Savary says consumers have little enough protection with credit cards. Debit cards may make a precarious position worse.

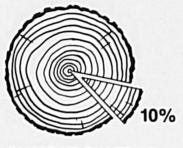


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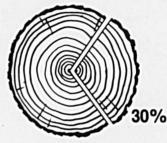


CANADA'S SHARE OF WORLD'S FOREST RESERVES.

(Source: FAO)

Canada has a very successful record of selling its pulp and paper in foreign markets. Although Canada has 10% of the world's forest reserves, it accounts for about 30% of the pulp and paper sold internationally. However, international competition

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lenge facing Canada's leading industry, send for "Pulp and Paper Reports: Cost Competitiveness", a free booklet from Public Information Services, Canadian Pulp and Paper Association, Sun Life Building, Suite 2300, 1155 Metcalfe Street, Montreal,

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Such a system is being tested by several credit unions.

The last step is home banking through home fun to use. computers or television But Sav monitors through coaxial cable.

"This is going happen and I would say by the out of cash on weekends 1990s, 50 per cent of all routine banking will be done outside the tion from a thief who branches," said Jim could come from behind Grant, vice-president of strategic retail planning account and credit card for the Royal Bank of once access has been Canada

With a high fixed cost Next step in the EFT of devices, computer odyssey is debit cards, software and hardware and labor to service them, there will have to be a high volume of use to bring the cost per

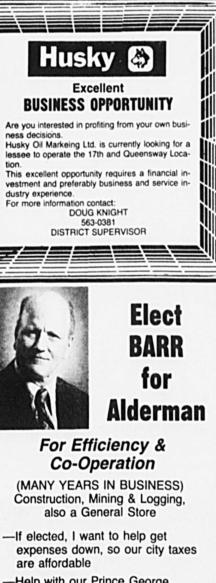
transaction down. Banks are now using the devices to attract accounts away from competitors and are absorbing the extra cost. But if not enough people use the computers, they could become an extra cost, says James Savary, a York University professor.

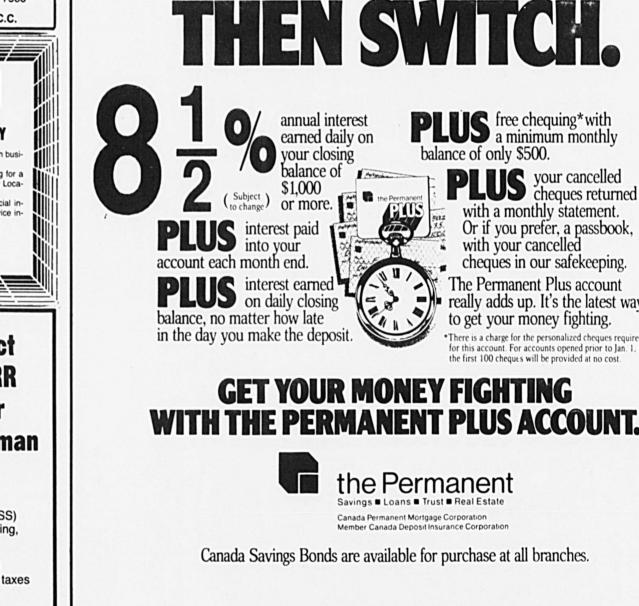
Grant says he's con-fident we'll love them for their 24-hour convenience. Besides, they're

But Savary cites several other factors that aren't much fun. The

and many are out in the open with little protecand rob the user's made with a personal

ness decisions. tion





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CHETWYND COAL MINE

Shipping next year

David Minerals Ltd. of Vancouver expects to start shipments of thermal coal late next year from a new mine near Chetwynd, the company's secretary-treasurer says.

Norman Croome said the company has signed a sales contract with Ssangyong Corp. of South Ko-rea, which will use the coal for cement production

He said 50,000 tonnes will be shipped in the fourth quarter of 1983, rising to 400,000 tonnes in the next nine years. The Korean company has an option to buy an additional 200,000 tonnes annual-

ly beginning in 1986. Between 85 and 100 employees will be required at the mine, which is adjacent to the British Co-lumbia Railway line 46 kilometres west of Chetwynd, he said.

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