

AM-QUEEN-VISIT; BGT; 0481

BUDGET

SEE VICTORIA DAY

BY DAPHNE BRAMHAM

DUNCAN; B.C. (CP) - QUEEN BEATRIX OF THE NETHERLANDS VENTURED INTO LOGGING COUNTRY TUESDAY; SWITCHING TO RUBBER BOOTS FROM FORMAL ATTIRE TO WATCH A 900-YEAR-OLD DOUGLAS FIR TOPPLE ON THE LAST DAY OF HER NINE-DAY VISIT TO CANADA.

THE QUEEN AND PRINCE CLAUS; HER HUSBAND; VISITED THE LOGGING SITE AND SAWMILL PRIOR TO RETURNING TO VANCOUVER IN MID-AFTERNOON FOR A FLIGHT BACK TO AMSTERDAM.

THE QUEEN; WEARING A PRINTED SKIRT; YELLOW WOOL JACKET AND NAVY RUBBER BOOTS; SEEMED INTRIGUED BY THE SEVEN-MINUTE OPERATION OF SAWING THROUGH THE TWO-METRE BASE OF THE 60-METRE-HIGH TREE.

DONALD READ; THE MAN WIELDING THE BLADE; HAS 30 YEARS' EXPERIENCE FELLING TREES BUT ADMITTING TO FEELING SOME PRESSURE IN PERFORMING BEFORE THE DUTCH ROYAL COUPLE.

"THIS IS CERTAINLY UNIQUE;" LAUGHED THE 40-YEAR-OLD LOGGER. "I JUST FEEL KINDA NERVOUS."

"THIS ONE WAS CHOSEN BECAUSE IT WAS IN A SPOT WHERE THE QUEEN COULD HAVE A VERY GOOD VIEW;" READ ADDED.

PRINCE CLAUS; DRESSED IN A GREY BUSINESS SUIT AND BLACK LEATHER SHOES; CONTENTED HIMSELF WITH STANDING TO THE SIDE ALONG THE MUDDY LOGGING ROAD; CHATTING TO PROVINCIAL FORESTS MINISTER DAVE PARKER.

THE SIGHT OF THE GREAT TREE TOPPLING; WITH A SERIES OF CRACKS SPLITTING THE AIR AS THE FIR WAVERED AND THUDDED TO THE GROUND; IS SOMETHING THE COUPLE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SEE IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY. TREES ARE HIGHLY PRIZED AND EVEN THOSE IN RESIDENTIAL YARDS CANNOT BE CUT WITHOUT A PERMIT.

WHAT REMAINS OF THE FOREST IN THE NETHERLANDS IS UNDER ATTACK BY ACID RAIN.

#### FORMAL FUN

THE LOGGING EXPEDITION FOLLOWED AN UPBEAT FORMAL DINNER MONDAY NIGHT IN VICTORIA WITH PREMIER BILL VANDER ZALM; A NATIVE OF THE NETHERLANDS; PLAYING HOST.

EARLIER IN HER CANADIAN VISIT; THE QUEEN STIRRED UP THE PASSIONS OF SOME QUEBECERS WHEN SHE REFERRED IN A SPEECH IN OTTAWA TO AN 1839 REPORT SUGGESTING THAT FRENCH-SPEAKING QUEBECERS BE ASSIMILATED INTO THE ENGLISH MAJORITY.

QUEEN BEATRIX; SPEAKING TO MPs AND SENATORS; MENTIONED THE DURHAM REPORT AS A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT TOWARD RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT FOR THE COLONISTS IN CANADA.

BUT SOME OPPOSITION MEMBERS OF THE QUEBEC LEGISLATURE SAID REFERRING TO THE REPORT WAS AN UNACCEPTABLE SLIP AND BOYCOTTED HER VISIT TO QUEBEC CITY ON WEDNESDAY.

DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER HANS VAN DEN BROEK; WHO WAS TRAVELLING WITH THE ROYAL COUPLE; SAID THE QUEEN WAS MISUNDERSTOOD. HE SAID SHE PRAISED THE REPORT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE EVOLUTION OF PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT IN CANADA; WHICH THE REPORT RECOMMENDED BE ESTABLISHED.

ELSEWHERE; THE ROYAL COUPLE; WHO ALSO VISITED HALIFAX; TORONTO; BURLINGTON; ONT.; HAMILTON; CALGARY AND VANCOUVER; WAS MET ENTHUSIASTICALLY BY FLAG-WAVING GROUPS OF DUTCH-CANADIANS.

THE 50-YEAR-OLD QUEEN LIVED IN OTTAWA AS A CHILD WITH HER SISTER AND MOTHER - THEN CROWN PRINCESS JULIANA - DURING THE GERMAN OCCUPATION OF THE NETHERLANDS DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR.