

Forest Fire-Fighting Costs: Canada's forest fire-fighting costs in 1948, amounting to more than 2½ million dollars, were the highest on record. In terms of measurable damage combined with fire-fighting cost, the loss from forest fires in 1948 was exceeded only by that of the 1941 fire season during the 20-year period for which Canada-wide records of forest fires have been compiled, according to information released by the acting Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. MacKinnon. The all-Canada forest-fire statistics are prepared annually from information supplied by all provincial and federal forest-fire protection agencies in Canada.

Although the number of forest fires, 5,368, was about normal, the total area burned amounted to some 3,185,000 acres; representing an increase of 70 per cent over the average burned acreage for the previous ten years.

The amount of merchantable timber on lands burned over in 1948 was equal to that used by all the pulp and paper mills in Canada for a 7½ month period, based on the average mill consumption from 1937 to 1946.

Strike Reaches Great Lakes: Ramifications of the Canadian Seamen's Union (T.L.C.) strike reached into Great Lakes traffic yesterday, engendering not only bitter inter-union charges but possible international angle, the Canadian Press reported.

The strike had its inception March 1 when the C.S.U., said to be Communist-dominated, ordered its members from Canadian East Coast deep-sea ships in protest against signing of contracts by the owners with the Seafarers' International Union (A.F.L.).

From Detroit yesterday the S.I.U. told its allied A.F.L. unions along the inland waterway to deny cargo service to three Canadian firms whose vessels are partly manned by C.S.U. crews, the report said.

The S.I.U. said its move was directed against Communism on the lakes and named more than 50 C.S.U.-manned ships as targets of the drive.

Across Canada: Gérard Picard, President of the Canadian Catholic Confederation of Labour, was in conference for two hours yesterday with the Minister of Labour of the Province of Quebec, Mr. Barrette, and it was assumed in the Canadian Press report that the talks were concerned with the Asbestos strike, which has been in effect since February 13....While the other three party leaders were campaigning in the Maritimes yesterday, Solon Low, Leader of the Social Credit Party, spoke at Hines Creek, Alta.