and Measures Act, 25 under the Food and Drugs Act, and one each under the Canada Agricultural Products Standards, Hazardous Products and Textile Labelling Acts, respectively. In addition, 90 cases are still in progress.

Of particular concern was the conviction recorded under the Textile Labelling Act, under which Liberty Discount Stores of Vanier, Ontario was fined $1,000 for failing to comply with regulations requiring a statement of fibre content on sweater labels.

"With the many natural and synthetic fibres available in the marketplace today, it is important that consumer textile articles be properly labelled so that consumers may identify them easily, be better able to comparison-shop; and also apply the appropriate cleaning process for the fibre," said Mr. Mackasey.

Fire in the forest
forest-fire control in Canada.

Today, forest firefighting depends heavily on the use of aircraft. Air-tankers have been developed with varying capacities to suit different needs, from the *Beaver* (80 gallons) to the giant Martin *Mars* flying-boat (6,000 gallons). The Canadair CL-215, the world's first plane designed specially to combat forest fires, was designed and built in this country. Helicopters, because of their versatility and their accuracy for water and retardant dropping, are being used increasingly in forest-fire suppression.

Important as these advances are, water dropping remains primarily a holding action and must be closely coordinated with or followed by control action on the ground. Aided by various types of mechanized ground equipment, hand-tool crews are still the "infantry" in the battle against forest fires.

However, no method or combination of forces yet developed can effectively suppress a large "crown" fire — one that spreads through the tops of coniferous forests during high winds, sometimes at a rate of more than four miles an hour. When this occurs, men and equipment must first be brought to safety, and a new line of defence established. Sometimes a substantial area of forest must be sacrificed to gain the time needed to construct an effective firebreak against a "crowning" fire.

Uses of fire

In recent years a new dimension has been added to the science of forest-fire control — prescribed burning. This is not as contradictory as it sounds; while continuously improving techniques to control the indiscriminate burning of nature, man has also begun to take advantage of the beneficial aspects of fire by using it in those places and at those times that will provide the results he seeks.

Prescribed burning is most commonly used to reduce the hazard of logging debris and to prepare suitable ground conditions for planting or seeding. Other applications include removal of unwanted brush or tree species, improvement of wildlife habitat, control of insect and disease outbreaks, and backfiring to stop a wildfire.

Intentional burning on forested land is carried out only after a thorough evaluation of the expected results — both beneficial and adverse — and careful planning by experienced fire-managers. In a prescribed "burn", the size, intensity, and rate-of-spread of the fire are under control at all times. It is obviously not a technique to be used by amateurs.

News briefs

■ The price of natural gas exported to the United States will rise in two stages by 34 cents a thousand cubic feet, announced Energy Minister Alastair Gillespie on June 10. On September 10 it will be increased by 20 cents a thousand cubic feet and a further 14 cents on January 1.

■ Crude oil production in Alberta averaged 1,360,000 barrels a day last year, down 14 per cent from the 1974 figure, says the Alberta Energy Resources Board in its 1975 annual report.

■ William John Patterson, a former premier and lieutenant-governor of Saskatchewan between 1951 and 1958, died on June 10 at the age of 90.

■ Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Canadian troops began patrolling the Canada/United States border the week of June 7 as part of the $100-million security program for the Olympics in Montreal.

■ A legal fight over British Columbia's government automobile insurance plan began June 8 in the Supreme Court of Canada, with 37 insurance companies attacking the plan.

■ National unemployment declined slightly to 7.1 per cent in May from 7.4 per cent in April because fewer people joined the labour force, says Statistics Canada. The number out of work decreased to 708,000 from 769,000 in the same period.

■ Canada, the United States and nine other countries have joined the World Bank to provide emergency credits of $5 billion to help the falling British pound. Canada will provide up to $300 million.

■ Relief operations in Italy performed by Canadians since the earthquake have been taken over by Italian authorities. Labour Minister John Munro toured the disaster area, June 7 to 9, to assess the effectiveness of Canada's emergency relief effort there.

■ Petro-Canada, owned by the Federal Government, has an exploration budget of $100 million for its first year of operation, company president Maurice Strong says.

■ The Canadian Consul in Los Angeles, Vimie E. Kilsby, received the YWCA Achievement Award last month in Los Angeles. Criteria for the award were job responsibility, community participation and diversification of job context.

■ President Seretse Khama of Botswana began a five-day official visit to Canada on June 11.

■ Provincial premiers met Prime Minister Trudeau in Ottawa, June 14 and 15, continuing discussions on the costs of social welfare programs, education and the Constitution.