

Supply

or from Poland or from somewhere else but if it is made in Canada, we should not buy it. What a true Canadian. I love him. He is a great Canadian.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, a number of Hon. Members have suggested that we need a Forestry Ministry. I am not really against that concept, but on the other hand, I believe we are now starting to move in a very positive direction. The present Minister is totally committed to forestry. I think that if the Official Opposition and the other Opposition get together and work closely with the Minister, we can really encourage the development of programs with the Provinces, programs north of sixty and follow-up conferences such as the one that was held in September of this year. In that way, I think the forest industry of Canada will remain a viable industry and will not continue in the direction it appears to be going in now. If it does in my riding and, I am sure, in the riding of the Hon. Member for Timiskaming and the riding of the Hon. Member for Cochrane-Superior (Mr. Penner), there will no longer be any more wood to cut 20 years from now. Ten years from now, Abitibi in northwestern Quebec will begin to close some of its lumber mills.

That is a shame, Mr. Speaker, and I will not accept total responsibility for it at the federal level. I think we have done our share and we have done more than our share. However, I think we must do more again in order to encourage the Provincial Governments to return to the forests some of the money they receive from the forestry sector, money they throw into the general fund to use for the little political games that they have played over the last 40 years.

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to rise and speak to this motion which calls for the Government to respond to the emergency in the forestry sector. The Hon. Member for Kamloops-Shuswap (Mr. Riis) had two suggestions to make which were aimed at involving the Government a little further in the forest industry of the country.

I would like to begin, Mr. Speaker, by reacting to the speech of the Hon. Member who just spoke. In a normal year, the Governments in Canada collect \$3 billion in taxes. Half of that amount is collected by the federal Government. Only 25 per cent of that amount, and in most years even less than that, is put back into the forest industry. Of this amount, about half goes to the federal Government and half to the Provinces. However, spending on forest renewal is 20 per cent by the federal Government and 80 per cent by the Provinces. So it is the federal Government which needs to look at how it is protecting and helping to regenerate our forests, which is really the biggest issue as far as we are concerned here.

● (1750)

I come from an area with a pulp mill, a great number of saw-mills, a plywood factory and a number of businesses related to the forest industry. About 60 per cent of Saskatchewan is covered by forests, but commercial timber is disappearing at a dangerous rate. Out of the total productive area of 4.4 million hectares, about 11,000 hectares were burned last year.

About 16,000 hectares were harvested, and only 7,390 hectares were naturally reseeded and 6,470 hectares restocked by the forestry branch. That means something over 13,000 hectares of forest disappeared last year in Saskatchewan. This causes us to be very concerned about the fact that the Government does not spend enough time, money and effort to make sure that the forests of Canada will be producing 10, 20 or 50 years from now.

Softwood timber is being cut in Canada 20 per cent faster than it is being regenerated. We are in competition with countries like Sweden and the U.S. which employ methods which allow them to harvest five to six times as much per acre in Sweden and ten times as much in the southern States. I spent a number of years in New Zealand where a tree was grown from a seedling to pulp size in seven years. That kind of competition is going to be very hard to deal with, and we are not even bothering to plant the trees let alone selecting those which will reproduce at a much faster rate. A couple of years ago I spent some time in Norway which is now replanting all of its forests because they found that selected seedlings will produce pulpwood or lumber class wood twice as fast as the naturally reseeded forest.

Foresters tell us, Mr. Speaker, we are a little bit stupid as Governments because the Canadian forest industry has declined more than 50 per cent since 1978, and provincial foresters tell us that money for research and development in the Canadian Forestry Service has declined by more than 50 per cent since 1968 as well. They also tell us that if we were to put some of that money into research and development and into reseeded and reforestation, we would have an immediate return in the form of an increase in jobs in the industry. We could have as many as 500,000 people helping in reforestation, which would increase the Government take from income tax a great deal.

The forest industry in Saskatchewan Mr. Speaker, employs 3,600 people directly, mainly in the Prince Albert area. There are another 7,000 indirect jobs and that is only in a very small area around Prince Albert. The value of Saskatchewan forest products was the second highest of any commodity in Saskatchewan's manufacturing sector last year. So in Saskatchewan, as in other parts of the country, it is a major industry. Direct revenue from that industry in Saskatchewan in 1982-83 was approximately \$2.8 million. This is expected to go up to \$413 million in the next 20 years. That is partly because the Saskatchewan Government has in the past insisted on a much higher level of reforestation in relation to the amount cut. The failure to regenerate forests adequately threatens the existence of as many as 300 communities over the next 15 to 20 years. Each year an area approximately the size of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia combined is removed from the world forest inventory and not replaced. That is approximately 50 acres a minute.

So we cannot lay all the blame on Saskatchewan, on Canada or on any particular part of our country, because it is happening all over the world. The difference is that some parts of the world have recognized that something has to be done and are