

● (3:50 p.m.)

I can see the trouble coming now if we get the farmers all steamed up and enthused about increasing their income by increasing their productivity, and then find that the market for their product is not available. The trouble is already apparent. This does not mean that the Quebec program should be stopped; not at all. I believe the federal government should jump in and say that they know that under the F.A.O. reports of 1949, 1959 and the special report of 1954, there is a world demand for an immediate all-out effort to increase the production of fibres. Let us call this by its simple name, pulp and paper. In this area the farmers are trained. They know how to work in the bush. This is part of the production plan in this area. But somebody must bring the Gaspé area and the four eastern provinces together in a single market operation because the companies which ordinarily handle the products have been oriented to the single newspaper to which they sell. They are quite happy with the contracts they have, which run for years in advance with some of the newspaper companies in the United States and in Europe.

These companies do not see the world as a market place so long as their particular mills have full sales. There is a job here for an imaginative minister. He must realize that here is an opportunity to bring together the five provinces, Quebec and the four Atlantic provinces, and forget for a while that there are provincial boundaries. He should see that here is an opportunity to take the word of the scientists, that the production can be multiplied if the trees are grown by the use of scientific techniques instead of in the natural way which is presently used. Three or four times the amount of wood can be produced off an acre if the farmers will take advantage of the technology available. All this knowledge is available to the government of Canada and has been for 30 years. We all know that it takes 30 or 35 years to grow a tree, but we must consider what other things can be done in this area.

All these farmers some time or other have had an opportunity in respect of cattle. We have heard from departmental officials and others that Canada and the United States are moving toward a crisis in respect of beef. We have heard there is a possibility that in the next few years Canada will have to import beef, because we cannot supply it from the present grass supply on the prairies, and the little that is available in eastern Canada. It is

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embarrassing enough to have a country like Canada import butter, but it will be even more embarrassing if we have to import beef. This country could step up its production of beef. Alongside beef there is the matter of the production of the fish from the river, the gulf and the ocean. When the World Food Organization three years ago asked Canada for more fish, we were unable to provide it because they could not take our fish in fresh form and send it to the Far East; they could not take it in the dried form in which we produce it. However, we do have the necessary technical knowledge. This was demonstrated five years ago in the pilot plant in Newfoundland. This operation could use the low grade fish which ordinarily would not sell, process it, and ship it all over the world. It could be sold commercially without any subsidy to the taxpayers.

While we have the potato producers crying because of the lack of markets, here we have the fish producers crying because GATT has not given them as much as it had expected. When two billion people want proteins in the form of fish and meat, what would be more natural than to combine the whole Atlantic region in respect of the production of fish, the products of forestry and the products of agriculture? In the type of operation I have been talking about, for example, each one is done seasonally. In the production of beef there is not an intensive labour content. You can watch the cattle grow without looking at them every minute. Somebody, however, must introduce the idea and show how this should be done. Actually the question of getting production organized is not difficult. The people of the Gaspé have made progress in the development program they have shown me. No one, however, is doing anything but marketing; no one has established national goals.

Therefore I suggest that the minister should move on his own, as the minister responsible for forestry and rural development. He should take the bull by the horns, because if he waits for the present Minister of Agriculture to come up with a national agricultural program we will all be dead. Let him speak for the people who need help in the marginal areas. Under the act he has full power to ask the provinces for their co-operation.

My third proposal has to do with rural development itself. When I introduced this legislation in 1961, indicating that I thought it would take 20 years to bring the complete rehabilitation program into being in all the areas which needed it, I had hoped in five or