

Mr. PERLEY: How many different laboratories are there?

Mr. CRERAR: There is one in Montreal, one in Ottawa and one in Vancouver. That is the character of the work done, and the increase is due simply to the increasing demand made on laboratories by war services.

Mr. GREEN: Some time ago there was a discussion about the possibility of setting up a forest products institute in Vancouver in connection with the university of British Columbia. I understand that a tentative agreement was reached between the dominion government, the provincial government and the board of governors at the university and the timber industry at the coast. What progress has been made with that project?

Mr. CRERAR: Some discussions in that regard have gone on with the government of British Columbia, with the university of British Columbia, and with the timber industry in that province, and I understand that substantial progress has been made. The likelihood is that before very long an agreement will be worked out.

Mr. GREEN: When will that project be undertaken? Is it a post-war project?

Mr. CRERAR: It was agreed that it would be post-war, that it would be carried on after the war. It involves the erection of a building, and the provision of facilities and equipment necessary for the work. It would be difficult at the moment to get the labour and materials for the construction and equipment necessary.

Mr. GREEN: But it is the intention to go ahead with it?

Mr. CRERAR: Yes. The agreement is practically worked out and I have no doubt we shall carry it through. At least I hope so.

Mr. ROWE: Is the general laboratory work carried on for post-war as well as for war purposes?

Mr. CRERAR: In Vancouver?

Mr. ROWE: No, in the estimates?

Mr. CRERAR: Yes. It is directed mainly to war work now, but these are the functions carried on by the department in normal times. They have been carrying on research work and investigations but since the war most of the work has been directed to matters relating to the war.

Mr. ROWE: I wish to emphasize again the scanty attention that has been paid by the dominion department to the forest products

[Mr. Crerar.]

industry. When one considers what has been done during war years in Germany and in other European countries, one sees that our amounts as well as our efforts are infinitesimal in comparison with the enormous resources we have to deal with. I know the minister does not want me to hold up the estimates, but this afternoon we discussed possible treaties with Russia and the question of how we are going to fight Japan, and what we shall do in the post-war period. Many hon. members on the other side of the house have emphasized the importance of the gold mining industry to give employment in the post-war days, and we can all agree with that.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Golding): Which was all out of order.

Mr. ROWE: No, Mr. Chairman. I submit that the hon. member for Parry Sound was not out of order when he was dealing with gold mining under the minerals item. The minister himself now states that this is for post-war considerations as well. However, I realize that these are war appropriations and I will not hold them up long, though I submit again that this side of the house has not been doing all the holding up. Let me emphasize that our whole approach as a dominion parliament and as a dominion government to our post-war possibilities in the forest products industry, and to post-war employment that will be given by that industry, has been very much neglected. Indeed, it has been a miniature compared with the part that the forest products industry plays in the war and the part that it will play after the war. Just consider the different uses of the forest products of this country, from hospital waddings to the parcelling of goods for the boys overseas, buildings, wall board, as well as ammunition, and all sorts of paper requirements, the things that are used every day in the war. Consider the tremendous shortage that exists and the difficulty we are experiencing in maintaining the supply of pulps for explosives and waddings, pulps to make parcels, and so on. There is, I repeat, a vast shortage and this is a small vote for the laboratory work during war time. The time has come when as a dominion we must assume more of the responsibility for the promotion and encouragement of the second greatest industry in Canada, the one that offers the greatest possibilities in the post-war period, the industry that is second only to food production in the requirements of the war. The minister has mentioned \$300,000 that may be brought down later. He says, I believe, that that is more than was spent in 1941 and 1942, when the expenditure was \$60,000, less than in 1939. Well, \$300,000 is