

Forestry Department

According to that organization, three trees out of five are cut down without being replaced. In Canada, we are no less guilty of waste even if the people seem to think that, because of our vast forests, the supply of wood is inexhaustible.

Other factors too help destroy forests; I mean insects and fires. Those are problems of concern to government authorities, both federal and provincial.

It is not too early to give some thought to the conservation of our forest resources, if we want to be in a position to meet the demand for wood products, a demand that will double within 15 years, and also to compete with Russia and other countries, but especially with Russia, which stops at nothing to get hold of our markets in the western world.

Mr. Speaker, the first thing that strikes me, when considering this bill, is the title: "Department of Forestry."

In my opinion, those two words psychologically imply an idea of authority which is causing a certain apprehension in the minds of provincial government leaders.

From a practical point of view, I believe it would have been better to name it the department of forest research, since the part the federal government is playing in the field of forestry does not concern forest management or administration, nor the control of cutting rights, etc.

The part of the federal government is well defined in subsection 5 of section 92 of the British North America Act, which reads as follows:

In each province the legislature may exclusively make laws in relation to—the management and sale of the public lands belonging to the province and of the timber and wood thereon.

This means that the part the federal government is called upon to play must be limited to research, preservation and use of forest resources, and not to management or administration.

This bill seems to go much further since paragraph A of section 6 says that the minister may take measures not only for the conduct of research relating to the protection of the forest resources of Canada, which is an excellent thing, but relating also to their management and utilization.

Several newspapers commented on this bill after it was announced by the government.

L'Action Catholique, of January 20, had this to say:

Under the guise of help, study and research, Ottawa is gradually penetrating into all fields.

And *Le Droit* said:

Will the federal government try to meddle with provincial affairs?

[Mr. Boulanger.]

We have the Prime Minister's verbal assurance that this act will not encroach upon provincial rights. But if we can have as much faith in his words as in his election promises, we will be disappointed.

What I want to point out at this stage has to do with the small producers, that is the majority of farmers, woodsmen and people whose living depends on the lumber industry.

In a pamphlet published by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, the number of people depending on the lumber industry is estimated at 361,300, not including farmers who have wood lots in addition to their farm proper. There are 35,000 of those producers in the province of Quebec and I do not think it would be an exaggeration to say that there must be about 100,000 in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, in the legislation and regulations that we will adopt regarding this department, we will have to give special consideration to the claims and requests made in certain circumstances by those workers.

At a time when farm income is steadily dropping it would be appropriate to include in this legislation regulations for the protection of those thousands of farmers whose sale of pulp wood or lumber represents added income, if not their chief income.

Recently, that is to say on June 7, 1960, we received a report on the value of the production of wood products for the year 1958. A study of that report indicates that the estimated value of wood products production dropped by \$17 million in 1958, as compared to 1957. That is a further reason for setting up this new department, which will be responsible for pushing production and finding new markets for our wood, both within and outside Canada.

Many Canadian farmers cannot make a profit out of their land, either because it is not fit for agriculture, or because they are settlers and their farm is not yet a going concern.

The efforts of the new department will doubtless be directed to the implementation of a research program for the protection, management and use of Canada's forest resources. However, it will have to stress the human and social aspects of the problem, that is to say the protection of the interests of farmers and tree farmers in our rural communities.

There is a need to integrate forestry to agriculture. Such a move would promote the