

Supply—Forestry

industry in B.C. without taking anything away from the production of lumber, and this was one of the great feats of the provincial minister.

I would like to know from the Minister of Forestry how closely he and his department are working with the B.C. Research Council. Some years ago at the B.C. Research Council headquarters in Vancouver I saw some samples of pressed cedar wood. All through the northern and central areas of B.C. there are very large stands of what is known as decadent cedar. I understand from the B.C. Research Council that this type of cedar has its own binding quality. No resins or glues are needed in order to make a pressed board out of the pulp which is manufactured from the cedar tree. It is also my understanding that the rot in the decadent cedar does not reduce its binding qualities, and that a certain amount of rot in the tree is beneficial in the process of producing a pressed board.

With the advent of large amounts of electric power produced by hydro development I can foresee a most outstanding and productive industry in the central interior of B.C. resulting from the use of what is now a drug on the market, namely decadent cedar. As I say, there are huge cubic volume quantities of this wood in the province, sufficient to launch a very large industry.

The samples I saw at the Research Council headquarters were some of the most beautiful pieces of pressed wood I have ever seen. The colour varied from a very dark to a very light, according to the intensity of heat applied in the process. I would like to know what the minister and his department are doing in co-operation with the efforts of the B.C. Research Council in this field.

The forests of Canada could provide a wonderful opportunity for the employment of thousands of people who may lose their jobs, due to automation and technological advance. With the production of more electric power from natural gas and other resources, much arduous hand labour will disappear. This will mean that we shall have to find places where more people can be gainfully occupied, and I do not know a better place than out in the great forests of our country, cleaning them up, getting rid of decadent and diseased trees, clearing windfalls, opening up access roads for the prevention of forest fires, and damming small rivulets so that pumping stations can be set up in case of fire, with great volumes of water readily available to quell the flames.

[Mr. Leboe.]

According to a press release the Department of Forestry has reported that it has acquired the services of one Mr. Benson from the province of B.C., to undertake a total land survey of Canada. I notice that Mr. Benson was connected with the B.C. provincial wild-life branch, and I would judge him to be highly qualified for the task that lies before him. I certainly wish him well. He has one of the most important tasks that could be undertaken, because I do not think anyone can overemphasize the importance of the timber, lumber pulp and paper industries in Canada.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I wish the minister well in his work. He will find us ready to co-operate with him at any time. I personally am greatly interested in his department because, as I said, of my 28 years close association with the lumber and timber industry.

● (3:40 p.m.)

[Translation]

Mr. Allard: Mr. Chairman, contrary to some interventions in this house in the past three months, mine will be short and concise but I want to go one better on the last words of the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Herridge) when he congratulated the Minister of Forestry (Mr. Sauvé) for his excellent work and particularly when he described him as a man with ideas.

Having witnessed the work and the behaviour of the various ministers in this house over the past three months, Mr. Chairman, I am perfectly in agreement with the member for Kootenay West when he recognized that the excellent work of the member for Îles-de-la-Madeleine and his gifts should mark him, as a government discovery, for a more important and more responsible portfolio than forestry.

French Canadians have often been charged with lacking the qualifications to handle important departments. The important and capital federal departments are notably finance and trade and commerce and, this year, we had three French Canadian members from Quebec who were in a position of fill these posts competently, namely the present Minister of Forestry, the forthcoming minister of manpower (Mr. Marchand) and the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys (Mr. Pepin). In spite of the high competence and qualifications of these three French Canadians, the present government has them restricted to truncated departments. Part of the Department of Agriculture and part of the Department of Northern Affairs and National