

Supply—Northern Affairs

products. We in Canada are very fortunate if at the outset we are able to get an efficiency of 28 per cent. There are many modern lumbering companies with an efficiency factor of 17 per cent and 18 per cent. I would suggest that we are wasting our resources. We are wasting them because we do not know what to do about them.

I am interested in visiting anybody who has an industry that he wishes to settle in my area. We have many things to offer industries coming in, but we have not been given leadership by former governments as to what type of industry would be willing to settle in that area. The delegation the minister sent to those countries might find out how they got their initial secondary industries started. It may have been necessary to subsidize them; it may have been necessary to have government intervention to the extent of building pilot plants for those industries.

I would like to congratulate the industries themselves—and it is not often that I do this—that have taken the lead and have had the foresight to do something for themselves, in many instances despite the lack of action on the part of governments. I speak of Abitibi and the plant they built at Sturgeon Falls. May of the small lumbering companies are now sending four or five cars of scrap lumber and sawdust to this particular plant. They are making a kind of fibre board that seems to be finding acceptance on the market, which is now replacing many other types of lumber. That kind of action helps to solve problems. I think the company is to be congratulated on the work it did in developing this type of market.

The McFadden Lumber Company at Blind River is another example. They developed a bondwood plant in that town. They may not own the original patent, but they were able to salvage fifth and sixth grade lumber. By cutting it into small strips and using a process of gluing it together they were able to end up with sheets of lumber 16 feet long and 4 feet wide of No. 1 white pine made out of something that previously was considered to be scrap and waste material.

If the government, through its committee or commission, were to go to other countries they would see these things in operation. Certainly Sweden has done an outstanding job in this particular field of lumbering and forestry. If they were to go to those countries they would find out how initially they were able to start their pilot plants or secondary industry plants, under whatever type of financial basis they were established. With that information we would be able to do the same thing in Canada.

I do not think it is a good idea to look at the situation either in Great Britain or the United States, because their geographical

situation and their resources are not the same as ours. I think we are going to have to go to a country which has trees and a climate the same as ours, and whose natural resources are the same as ours. We should start on that basis; we should start on what we can do, if we are willing to do it, and this information must be obtained before we decide what we are going to do.

In the two sessions I have been here I have found that the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources has imagination and initiative. He has the youthfulness which is necessary, because this is not an old man's area; it is a young man's country. He is capable, and he has the ability to do the developing. If the Prime Minister were realistic about this he would not be concentrating on Frobisher bay. I have no objection to a town being built eventually at Frobisher bay, but I do not think he should start that far away. He should start in on the fringe of our industrial areas and push northern development before him. He should not start on the other side and try to squeeze it down into southern Ontario. He is going to have to work, but I am quite sure that if some initiative is shown this type of vision, this type of program, can be initiated.

There may be some question as to why the federal government should be involved. The provincial government, I suggest—and I do not want to infringe on its rights—is going to co-operate in any way and any manner the federal government may suggest. I also suggest that the provincial government is not in a position to go outside of Canada to get the information and the ideas and talk to the owners of industries in other countries who may wish to put subsidiary plants in our area. We are going to have to co-operate with the provincial government. I am sure their co-operation will be readily given. I say that simply because the government of Ontario is also Progressive Conservative and knows this problem. Premier Frost, when he went into northern Ontario, had a vision of trains going from Toronto to James bay. He has the sympathy and will have the ear of the present government.

I strongly urge that this procedure of understanding and development in the far north be undertaken first in northern Ontario and continue into other areas from that point.

Mr. Nesbitt: Mr. Chairman, I shall try to keep my remarks as brief as possible. This, no doubt, will be pleasing to the members of the committee. I have two little matters I should like to bring to the attention of the minister, perhaps to nudge him a little