

*Supply—Forestry*

give us some insight into what happened at that conference. It may be that all the details cannot be passed along to us, but we would welcome a summary and a reference to the attitude of those who participated in it and what they anticipated so far as the combined efforts of federal and provincial authorities are concerned.

The minister stated that his department would facilitate the exchange of ideas. Like every other industry I suppose each area has its own problems which must be faced and solved, in so far as they relate to each specific area, but there must be some areas in which the problems are identical and the exchange of ideas in various fields would be of value to the various provincial administrations. We think of the conservation problem, and in this same book to which I have referred, dealing with forest problems it states:

The task facing Canada is to manage the forestry so as to provide harvests in perpetuity, and at the same time to increase their productivity.

The hon. member for Kootenay West has referred to the need for conservation. We have heard him speak on this subject many times, and reference has been made to the problems of protection of the forests from insects, disease and so on. Here again it seems to me an exchange of ideas would be very beneficial.

The main thought tonight has been devoted to the field of research connected with wood products. The federal Department of Forestry could be a clearing house for information in this respect, providing an exchange of ideas that would be of mutual benefit to all concerned.

The minister referred to the problem he faces in building an adequate research team. For some years past the various provincial governments have developed research agencies of their own. Universities and private industries have co-operated in research, and I think all the information which they produce should be fed into the federal department where it will be available to all interested in these affairs.

The department is relatively new and perhaps that is one reason the minister is having difficulty in recruiting the necessary personnel. It may be that young people must be made aware of the opportunities for careers with the department in this important, and I imagine, fascinating activity. But naturally it will take some time for them to become aware of this and for them to prepare themselves to take their place in such a research department. There is an increasing awareness that there must be a scientific approach to management and marketing in regard to forestry and forest products.

I indicated I was just going to take a few minutes, and in conclusion let me once again wish the minister and the officials of his department every success in their endeavours to increase the usefulness of the department within the bounds of its constitutional possibilities.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Gauthier:** Mr. Chairman, I examined with interest the estimates of the Department of Forestry.

As we are newcomers in this committee, we realize that this department is not very large, as indicated by its budget, which is a little over \$1,000,000 per province. However, at first glance, one can easily recognize the impressive work done by such a small department.

First of all, I must congratulate the minister and all his officials for having carried out this enormous task.

I note that this department was created only a few years ago, but it is fitting to say in this case that one does not have to be advanced in years to show one's mettle.

It is a matter of course that forestry matters come under provincial jurisdiction, but I hesitate to appeal to the federal government when it comes to provincial matters. Indeed, I always fear for provincial autonomy, because too frequently in the past the federal government has intruded gradually in some fields coming under provincial jurisdiction until it has almost taken them over.

On the other hand, we have to admit that the creation of such a department was essential, in order to give the provinces necessary leadership for the future in view of Canada's development. The local, and even the domestic market, are no longer sufficient. It is necessary to look to the international markets; this is why the federal government must step in and co-operate with the provinces so that we may be able to compete against other countries on those markets.

When the minister states that we have exported over \$2 billion worth of forest products, this shows the efficiency of this essential federal-provincial agreement.

If there were not, under present conditions, an ever-increasing understanding between the provinces and the central government, the present flow of our forest products into foreign markets, would sink to the national or even local level. That is to say that our group unreservedly supports any effort the department is now making in the forestry field.

By multiplying those meetings we shall, as I mentioned earlier today, ultimately become known on the world market as merchants in tune with modern times. I shall mention here the work which should draw