

Forestry Department

There are at least seven lumbermen's associations, and those are mainly regional. The Canadian lumbermen's association, which represents the lumber industry in Ontario and Quebec, does have a few members in the maritimes, but that is the extent of its jurisdiction. It does have about 250 saw mill members, along with lumber wholesalers and retailers. It is apparent, therefore, that this particular industry is not organized in such a fashion as to conduct a significant program of forestry or forest products research.

The pulp and paper industry, by contrast, does maintain the pulp and paper research institute of Canada, and individual companies carry on research for their own benefit. It is estimated that these companies spend about \$5 million a year on research. Under the pulp and paper research institute there is a small woodland operation, and plans are under consideration for its expansion. It should be noted, however, that the pulp and paper industry of Canada has expanded rapidly since world war II, and much of this expansion has been carried out by finances derived from within the industry.

I feel that if Canada is to meet her share of the demand forecast by the Fowler committee in Rome the industry will have to make very heavy investments in the very near future. It seems, too, that the cost of adapting our basic research and putting it into operational research techniques will fall mainly on the large producers in the pulp and paper industry, and this is a very expensive undertaking. We hope the pulp and paper industry will expand its research facilities, but we realize that with the heavy commitments of physical expansion and adapting our forest research techniques to practical operating conditions, there will be a very heavy financial strain on these companies.

If I have described the situation accurately, it is obvious that we can draw a certain conclusion from what I have described as the present situation in Canada. This conclusion is that there is no agency or organization, other than the forest research agencies of the federal government, which could be expanded rapidly to meet the increasing needs for more research in forestry and forest products. Attempts by individual provinces or by industrial associations to establish organizations capable of carrying out comprehensive programs in these fields would result in wasteful duplication and would, I think, impose an impossible strain on them and also place a terrible strain on the limited research talent we have available in Canada. Therefore in the last analysis the choice lies

[Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle).]

between accelerating the program now conducted by the forestry agencies of the federal government and a decision to forgo acceleration of forestry and forest products research in Canada.

Last year the government decided to double forestry and forest products research, both basic and applied. Working completely independently, the standing committee on mines, forests and waters recommended a program of more effective research efforts by the federal government. It recommended, for example, that the forest biology section of the Department of Agriculture dealing with insects and forest diseases should be amalgamated with the forestry branch of the present Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. Both the government and the standing committee received representations from the pulp and paper organization and from numerous other organizations in the lumber industry.

The decision of the government to double the research effort in the next five years, and the recommendation of the standing committee that the status of the forestry branch be raised to the level of a department are complementary. The recommendation of the standing committee was unanimous, and I trust that the house will give the same unanimous treatment to this effort of the federal government to do its utmost in the field of research.

The hon. member for Laurier, speaking for the official opposition, expressed the belief that it was not necessary to set up a new department to achieve these ends. He said that the forest biology division of the Department of Agriculture was very small, and that the forestry branch of my department was also small. He suggested that the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys could add forestry to his present duties. I believe the hon. member has ignored the representations and the evidence placed before the standing committee on mines, forests and waters. It is not by the size of a departmental expenditure or the number of personnel in a department that you judge the importance of a minister's work. I think it is by the effect of his operations on the well-being of the Canadian people.

Is it the view of the official opposition that we should have Canada's largest industry, producing more dollars toward a favourable balance of trade than all other groups of commodities combined, an industry that employs hundreds of thousands of men, an industry which gives promise of increased revenues to agriculture, relegated to a position as branch of a department; or are they going to accept the unanimous view of the