

*Supply—Resources and Development*

I feel that we have overlooked the importance of this industry in our economy. Tremendous advancement occurred in the two great wars, especially in the latter one. Today more people are reading newspapers and more people are using forest products. World consumption is increasing, and one of the greatest resources Canada has is her forests. There has been an increased consumption of rayons, celanese, wallboard, milk cartons, and hundreds of other articles, all produced from this great resource.

Just as our agricultural fields must be kept fertile, so must our forest resources be preserved by proper scientific methods. I hope I will be pardoned for speaking like this. Along with other members I have spoken in support of our agricultural industry, but I feel that anyone who is interested in the development of Canada should not overlook the vital importance of doing everything possible to protect our forest resources. The greatest need is for protection from fire and insects. Millions of cords of timber are being destroyed annually by insects and fire. I can illustrate this point best by saying that more good timber is destroyed by insects and fires per annum than is used in the whole pulp and paper industry to bring nearly a billion dollars into this country. When you stop and realize the situation, it is so gigantic and tragic that we should not overlook it any longer.

I feel I am consistent in what I say, because a few years ago our former leader emphasized that we should have a national forestry policy, and that we should establish a department to co-ordinate the efforts of the different provinces. I am not speaking politically on this issue, because it far transcends party lines. No matter what government has been in power in past years it seems to me they have overlooked the importance of an over-all national policy to co-ordinate the efforts of the provinces in this regard, in their respective fields.

Someone might ask how I would propose to have the dominion help. The minister knows very well that constructive work has been done and is being done by his department with reference to protection from insects. Nevertheless even if all this money were spent in any one of these ventures it would be very small indeed compared with the great industry that is involved and the tremendous amount of work to be done. Perhaps the provinces might be criticized for not doing as much as they might have. It is important that the Department of Resources and Development study carefully what might be done by way of a national policy. Many companies operating in the forests have extensive road programs running into 300 or 400 miles of roadway. These roads serve to

bring out timber, and also serve as a means for transporting personnel engaged in fighting fires and protecting our forests from fire.

It is not much help if in one area there are 200 miles of highway, and only about 40 miles between that area and another company's operations across the border of the limit. One hundred miles of road would link up two systems covering 1,000 miles. Our forest rangers could travel on these roads and be available in case of fires that mean so much to the industry and to the country generally. As everyone will recall, we have had fires that have destroyed hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of virgin timber that might have been saved. The aeroplane has been of great help. While it has been accepted that the provinces should assume the responsibility for our forests, nevertheless Canada cannot afford to allow this great resource to be treated on any other basis than that of the treatment accorded to agriculture, mining, fisheries, and many other industries and enterprises vital to the welfare of our people.

I hope that at the dominion-provincial conference the government will discuss ways and means by which we may have a broader national co-ordinated plan of forest protection from fires and insects. There is every justification for the government of Canada spending several million dollars on a national forest highway policy to connect areas in different provinces and operations within areas. I should like to say in fairness to all classes of society that no industry has got along for a longer period of time and shown greater development with less government assistance than the forest industry of Canada. As you know, what has been spent on our forests by the provinces is infinitesimal compared with the revenues the provinces have collected. We are spending only \$2,500,000 or \$3 million on a forestry branch involving an industry responsible for 38 cents of every United States dollar produced by all our commercial exports, and an industry that is growing in importance in relation to the general development of the country.

We should realize, Mr. Chairman, that it takes 100 acres of Canadian forest to produce one of the biggest newspapers in the United States every day that the sun rises. There is an increased demand for pulp and paper products. Hundreds of new uses are being discovered almost every decade. Fine papers and other products are being produced in addition to timber and products of heavier tonnage. When you realize that it takes 100 acres every day to print one daily paper in New York, it is evident that we must perpetuate our forests if we are to have a lasting industry. It takes from fifty to sixty