

*Supply—Forestry*

New Brunswick and to parts of Nova Scotia. As the minister knows, it is not so much a problem in the west.

I noticed in the estimates the increase in money spent under these agreements, and I would hope some time, through questions and answers, we could find out just a shade more about what type of forest agreements are being made with these provinces, whether they are crown forest or county forests, and how much is going into woodlots and that type of thing.

Having dealt with the more or less orthodox part of the Department of Forestry I think we can say we are well satisfied with the work that is being done between the federal government and the provincial governments in relation to these agreements, and the friendly attitude that exists on both sides. I also think we are extremely well pleased as Canadians, as I said earlier, with the tremendous quality of the research work being done, both basic and applied. However we still think much more has to be done in extending it, but in his remarks the minister showed he is well aware of that.

I do not want to prolong my remarks, but I would like to suggest, if it has not already been done, that a great opportunity exists for the minister to achieve giant, forward steps, for forestry and the whole forest industry, by recognizing that machinery now exists through which he can guarantee to the forest industry of Canada the maximum advantage. I am referring to the machinery known as ARDA, the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act. Looking at it for the moment as simply a matter of the best use of land and water, forestry is the long term solution to the problems that now beset what is called the agricultural industry.

I think it will be recognized that this solution must, by the very nature of the growth of a tree, be a long term solution, but I would hope the minister will make himself fully aware not only of the terms of the ARDA legislation, which is administered by the Department of Agriculture, but will also make himself fully aware of the philosophy behind ARDA. Speaking now more or less on the agricultural side, as opposed to the forestry side, I would point out that forestry was one of the main hopes of those who drafted that ARDA legislation. I am not downgrading the other uses of land and water for wild life conservation, recreation and so on; but in forestry lies the main economic hope that we can do something to redevelop many of our areas which at present do not give Canadians a high standard of living. I am not going into the details of why that is so, but it is well understood.

I hope the minister takes this suggestion in the spirit in which it is offered. In a department full of highly skilled personnel, which does not require too much time on administration, he has ample opportunity to make certain there is someone on the forestry side positively and always aggressively trying to be part of the ARDA concept. He should press his colleague, the Minister of Agriculture, to be in on the ARDA discussions. He should accept no excuse from the Minister of Agriculture because, in the formal sense, agriculture is completely intermarried with forestry. If he does that, then not too many years from now we will see many, many times more farmers on the land than at present, because forestry will give a higher return per acre than any other use.

Therefore I put some feeling into this plea to the minister, that he should not let the Minister of Agriculture be the only person interested in ARDA. The door is wide open in its philosophy and principles, and if the minister, on behalf of those who believe in the ARDA approach, makes certain he is always putting forward the viewpoint as to how forestry can do so much to help solve these tremendous adjustment problems, he will be taking the right approach. I refer to the type of living of many people now in the marginal agricultural areas, and he should not forget that the human factor in these problems is our main concern.

Now, the next suggestion I want to make relates to something traditional in any discussion of forestry and has been referred to already by the minister. This is the question of marketing. This is going to be one of the most difficult tasks because in the field of marketing the jurisdiction in relation to the forest industry lies almost entirely with private enterprise. Outside of the timber board in Saskatchewan and perhaps one or two other areas about which I do not know, I believe private enterprise has the responsibility for selling all forest products. However, we have a federal interest, and a big one. We have an important forest product section in the Department of Trade and Commerce.

If hon. members recall what I said when I introduced the bill establishing this department, I noted that there had to be the closest liaison between the economic division of the forestry department and the forestry division of trade and commerce. I believe this was a good suggestion. However, the difficulty arises as a result of the fact that all you can do with private business is persuade, and at times persuasion has its limitations. If you have a strong national organization such as exists in the pulp and paper industry,