

Supply—Forestry

But distribution of this literature is extremely limited at the present time and I suggest that the publications distribution of the Department of Forestry should be reviewed to make sure we are making the best possible use of the staff's talent.

I have one other suggestion to make before I resume my seat. This subject has become something of a hobby of mine, Mr. Chairman. I made a most moving appeal to the Minister of Industry in this connection and although it moved him temporarily, he is not moving forward at all on my suggestion. This has been in my mind for three or four years. It arose by my meeting a group of students from overseas who had come to this country and were given a tour in order for them to gain an understanding of the development of industry, natural resources and other aspects of our social and economic life. I found they were returning without any final conclusion to this tour which was, naturally, very informative.

Then again I have met a large number of young people who are not particularly desirous of pursuing an academic career, though they are well able to make a contribution in the natural resource field. They do not wish to become doctors of philosophy or masters of science, but they are quite capable of attending a technical or vocational training school. I think it would be a good idea if we could set up a Canadian college of conservation to fill the need which exists here. I am not suggesting anything which would involve a large expenditure. If I had the building of it—and I would build one myself if I could afford it—I would choose a suitable location near a pleasant lake, surrounded by woodland. The staff would not number more than half a dozen. The faculty would be recruited from the universities and departments on loan; persons interested in soil and soil conservation would come to give a course of lectures for a week or two. Water resources, wildlife and similar subjects would be dealt with in the same way. Those foreign students and those Canadians who would like to undertake work of this kind with a view to employment in the civil service or with private companies would, after a year, say, at the end of this training, be given a diploma in conservation—something to indicate that they had absorbed the philosophy of conservation and had undertaken to apply that philosophy in the context of practical affairs in Canada and elsewhere.

When the minister replies I hope he will tell us what he thinks of this idea. I find I have a good deal of support for it among very important Canadians. I repeat, I am not suggesting anything which would involve very large expenditure. The college would have accommodation for not more than 50 people, maybe living in log cabins and accommodation of that sort. I believe a foundation of this kind would provide an opportunity which would be welcomed by overseas students as well as by a large number of young Canadians who are willing to serve in the natural resource field.

● (3:30 p.m.)

Mr. Leboe: Mr. Chairman, I shall detain the committee for only a few moments, but as one who one way or another has spent 28 years in the forest industry, naturally the activities of the Department of Forestry are of great interest to me. The forest industry, and forestry resources are of great interest to Canadians generally because they produce a great share of the actual wealth which we possess. In the province of British Columbia it is often stated that over 60 per cent of B.C. revenue dollars are wood dollars. Because of that we are interested in what is happening in the forest industry, and what affects our industry also affects other areas of the country which depend to a great degree on the lumber and timber industries.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to one of the great men of our times for his work in connection with forestry matters. I speak of Hon. Ray Williston, Minister of Lands, Forests and Water Resources in the province of B.C. Ray Williston is a man of great ability, a man of boundless energy, a man who applies himself with a diligence that is seldom found in any individual human being. He has worked very diligently in B.C. to get a sustained yield program in operation.

Bringing a sustained yield program into being is a painful process and many people are hurt during the development of such a program, but Mr. Williston has handled the B.C. program in a way unparalleled in Canadian history. He has introduced the program throughout almost the total area of B.C. as painlessly as it is possible to do so.

One of the bright spots in his career was his introduction of what is known as the pulp harvesting area. The principle of the pulp harvesting area has allowed a great expansion to take place in the pulp and paper