

Water Resources

by some technical advice and financial assistance, they are the ones best able to ensure that the water in its fresh water lakes is used to the best advantage for all.

We in the Georgian Bay area have a beautiful country which attracts tourists by the thousands both winter and summer. For many years now we have come to the realization of the value of clean air and pure water. Our people began conservation projects of various kind with a view to preserving these great assets. We were given encouragement and financial support by a provincial Conservative government and a federal Conservative government to the tune of 37½ per cent each. The result was the establishment of two authorities, the Sauble Valley Authority and the North Grey Conservation Authority. These authorities are extremely active and have completed many conservation projects. We feel their accomplishments have made our area a virtual tourists' paradise. All water can be improved and no doubt Georgian Bay and Lake Huron are no exception. I know our people will co-operate in any way possible, but they will need direction and financial assistance.

Mr. Speaker, DDT presents this nation with the biggest threat to our health as it is the most powerful of the water pollutants and is reputed to be killing the vegetable plankton in our lakes and in the sea, the source of 80 per cent of man's oxygen supply. Some scientists estimate the oxygen supply contained by the sea will last only 40 more years at the present rate of wastage. It has been authentically stated that since creation every drop of water has been used by someone at some time. There is no such thing as pure water. It has all gone through the normal natural cycling process. It is an accepted fact that since the turn of the century the population explosion and the industrial revolution have upset the normal recycling process..

As long as things were found in nature, bacterial action could take care of them. Man has developed thousands of compounds which are not found in nature and these cannot be broken down through natural action. In many parts of this continent as well as in Europe people are living in oxygen-deficient atmosphere. More oxygen is being used than is being replaced and we continue to destroy the oxygen-producing parts of nature.

Hydro-carbon pesticides are claimed by scientists to be similar to atomic wastes. DDT is 50 per cent effective after 15 to 20 years of exposure. Of the billions of pounds of DDT

[Mr. Noble.]

used in the last 20 years, 90 per cent is still active. If any one of us were sold as food we would be labelled unfit for human consumption because of the pesticide levels in our bodies.

It is now evident we have been careless about our environment, and the position in which we have placed ourselves is almost as catastrophic as the migration of the lemming into the sea to destroy themselves.

We may ask what is being done about present supplies of DDT which are to be disposed of. Are people being warned not to pour it down the drain or dispose of it in some other way which would make a further contribution to the problem which exists? In Owen Sound we have alerted our people by radio to bring any DDT to be disposed of to a central collecting point. This is an area in which I feel the federal government has an immediate responsibility. Advice should be given to all the provinces as to what is the proper and safe method for the disposal of DDT. I would suggest that if unused stocks were exposed to a high degree of heat in a smelter the harmful effect would be neutralized. There may be other methods which would be just as effective.

I pay tribute to the minister for the finely polished phrases he used in presenting Bill C-144. He gave the impression that this legislation would cure all our water ills, but this is not so. In plain words, this bill lacks guts and leadership and contains no commitment regarding financial assistance. If passed in its present form Bill C-144 will nullify the federal assistance of 37½ per cent now provided in the statutes and would foist all financial responsibilities on to the provinces. Nevertheless, the government would hope to bask in the sunshine of popularity for its water policy but in reality the bill in its present form is only another exercise of the government's austerity program.

Mr. F. J. Bigg (Pembina): Mr. Speaker, the water bill now before the House is perhaps the most important piece of legislation we have tackled in 20 years. This is a sweeping statement, but facts are available to prove it.

The explosion of an atom bomb is something which happens in a moment; we can all see the mushroom cloud and we all know its devastating effect. Pollution, on the other hand, is something which is creeping up on us day by day. It is creeping up at an increasing speed. I do not think that even those who appear to be exaggerating realize the terrible danger which confronts the whole human