

*Supply—Forestry*

woodlot. However, I will have to deal with that program at a later date because I see my time is rapidly passing.

I suggest to the minister that consideration should be given to assisting the Canadian tree farmers association in publishing their monthly paper or bulletin, as we might more properly call it, *The Tree Farmers' Guide*, and that this assistance might be given either through the Department of Forestry or the Department of Agriculture in similar fashion to that now given to the agricultural institute of Canada. I think the department assists some of their staff in the preparation of articles and lends them some of its staff for a few days when publication is about to take place.

I urge the minister to give consideration to that because this work is being undertaken on a voluntary basis by an increasing number of persons who are interested in developing this aspect of our forest resources in Canada. Finally, I want to say once again that the members of this group will welcome all the minister's undertakings for the development of sound forestry policies in Canada that will be to the advantage of this and coming generations of Canadians.

**Mr. Patterson:** Mr. Chairman, I just want to take a few minutes of the time of the committee this evening to make some observations with respect to the estimates now before the committee. We have listened tonight to a number of speakers who have delved into the problems of the forest industry to a considerable extent. Possibly some of them spoke from personal experience in the forest and lumber industries and I am sure that we appreciate the observations to which we have listened.

First of all, I should like to join with other hon. members in congratulating the minister on taking over this portfolio. I think it is most appropriate that a member from British Columbia should be chosen to fill this very important post. His experience in the past will no doubt be of tremendous value as he applies his energies and interest to this comparatively new department, and I am sure we all wish him well in carrying out this responsibility.

I am sure we all have an understanding and appreciation of the importance of the forest industry in our national life. Those of us who come from provinces where it is of vital concern provincially also take a wider view because we know it has a tremendous bearing upon the economic welfare of our entire nation. I was very interested to receive a copy of a booklet entitled "The Pulpwood Harvest" published by the Canadian pulp and paper association. In the first section

[Mr. Herridge.]

there are a number of very interesting factors which are brought to our attention. I believe the facts are very pertinent and I should like to refer to three or four very brief paragraphs. The first section calls attention to the fact that Canada is after all a forest country with more than half of its land wooded and suited only to the growth of trees. It goes on to state:

Directly and indirectly, the forests generate a major portion of the income of her people, and their influence in shaping the economic, social, and cultural progress of the nation has been immeasurable.

The third paragraph is as follows:

The story of forest problems and forest operations best begins with the story of the forests themselves. They comprise a belt, generally from 600 to 1,000 miles wide, which extends from the Atlantic, curves north on the prairies, and dips south to cover most of British Columbia. This is the vast and bountiful reservoir from which pulp and paper and the other forest industries draw their raw material.

Further along it says:

During the years since then, the forests have remained a great bastion of Canadian commerce. From them, today emanates more than one quarter of the production of Canada's primary industries. Shipments of forest products comprise more than a quarter of the nation's exports, and of this amount pulp and paper accounts for about 70 per cent.

The final paragraph says:

The forest, thus, is a resource which pours out bounty to all Canadians at the rate of more than a quarter of a million dollars every hour, day and night. It is a resource in which everyone has a stake, and which every Canadian should seek to use wisely.

These brief quotations from this book once again emphasize the importance of this industry to our economy.

Forestry plays a tremendously important part in the provincial economy of British Columbia. I have with me a copy of the budget speech dated February 8, 1963, presented by the Hon. W. A. C. Bennett, premier of British Columbia and minister of finance, and on page 13, dealing with provincial wealth, it points out with respect to natural resources that the present value of inventory so far as forestry is concerned is \$3 billion. Revenue from lands and forests in 1962 amounted to \$34,840,374, and it is estimated that it will amount to \$38 million in 1964. Therefore we in British Columbia are especially interested in this particular phase of our economy and, as I have stated, I think it is suitable and proper that an hon. member from British Columbia was chosen to head the Department of Forestry.

When he introduced his estimates I listened for some references by the minister to the recent conference which was held, and I hope that before the estimates pass he will