

*The Address—Mr. P. Gauthier*

Passed at the regular meeting held on November seventh, 1949. Certified true copy.

Jean Louis Frenette,  
Secretary-treasurer

I would therefore ask the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys to accede to their request and to help these municipalities in order that this drainage may be carried out as soon as possible to improve the location and nature of these lands.

I have very little to say to the Minister of Transport, but I must thank him for having taken a hand at the right moment and when the need for it was felt. His intervention was sufficient to convince the Canadian National and certain projects were carried out in the municipality of Deschambault. May I be permitted to state here that I believe the Minister of Transport has always been friendly and, so it seems to me, that he has a soft spot for the people of my area who gave their all, not only in wartime but in peacetime, when it devolved upon them to do the piloting between Montreal and Quebec and between Quebec and Pointe-au-Père. The Minister of Transport was always willing to consider all requests, not only those that had to do with the railroads but also with piloting. I wish to thank him, until such time as I have other more specific requests to make or I have to meet him with a delegation.

I must also note, Mr. Speaker, that my hon. friend from Maisonneuve-Rosemont (Mr. Fournier) has supported all the requests made by those who sail the St. Lawrence. I do not forget either the hon. member for Levis (Mr. Bourget) who also has something to do in this connection.

You might say that I am congratulating the government pretty often. However, when the government does the right thing, I like to say so just as I like to point out the errors of its ways. When the government brought in a bill for the protection of our forests I was happy to support it and I am convinced that this act will bear very useful fruits and that the provinces will co-operate in order that our forests may be more adequately protected. I remember that when I spoke on this matter I paid particular attention to the necessity for educating our people in general, with special regard for our youth. I will make so bold now as to quote an article in English, even though I am no great hand at it, on the necessity of intensifying this type of education in our schools. This article, entitled "Schools Need Forestry Books", is taken from the publication *Woodland World*.

(Text):

Study programs being revised in schools of seven provinces lay more emphasis than ever before on

conservation and forestry. That an encouraging pattern of conservation teaching is unfurling in elementary and secondary schools is indicated in a new handbook for Alberta teachers. It notes that teaching of conservation has traditionally been approached as our responsibility to the world of the future, and adds that present trends, however, bring out "that even in this rich new land of Canada, conservation programs are of direct significance to our present generation."

There's one discouraging factor in what otherwise looks like a promising picture. It's the lack of tools (graded reference material and suitable visual aids) to put across the program effectively. Practically all provinces deplore the fact that what material is available, particularly in elementary grades, is above the child's level of interest and comprehension.

One immediate step toward the solution of this problem would be the bulk purchase (at a special low rate) by education departments of "The Children's Book of Trees" from the Canadian Forestry Association. This book written by Leonard Knott with the editorial co-operation of C. F. A., tells the story of forests, forest protection and conservation in a way that will hold the interest of every child of elementary school age.

Still another help would be the placing of "Woodland World" and "Forest and Outdoors" in all schools for supplementary reading purposes. Through the generosity of 60 sponsors some 700 schools in outlying districts get F. & O. The same could be done for all schools through a similar but more extensive sponsorship system in which subscriptions are available at a special low rate.

*Woodland World* is certainly to be commended for this fine article. I hope that in the minds of the general public the impression will be created that an intensive teaching program should be started among our youngsters, and that the importance of our forests should be impressed upon them so that future generations will look on our natural resources as the real ones necessary to keep Canada in the forefront of the concert of nations.

(Translation):

Mr. Speaker, I like to revert fairly often to certain subjects. I believe that in so doing, the words which I dare speak on this matter will have the same effect as water constantly dripping on stone where it finally leaves its mark.

Already, I have vehemently assailed drunkenness in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario and, indeed, throughout the country. I have stressed the enormous amount of hard liquor consumed in these two provinces.

If I revert to the subject, for the hundredth time perhaps, it is not for political purposes, but because, in my opinion, there is a lack of earnestness in certain quarters when it comes to canvassing taxpayers for funds for educational pursuits. On the other hand such education is useless if we waste it by making it possible for our people to drown it in a glass of beer or hard liquor.