

Forestry Department

is released. According to the tests made so far they are very effective and I understand there will be quite a future for them. I think they have been trying out two of the big Mars flying boats.

As the hon. member for Comox-Alberni said, these large Mars flying boats were purchased by a number of British Columbia logging companies and it is a very expensive experiment. When this new forestry department is set up it will no doubt carry on in the field of research methods of fire fighting, effective reforestation, insect control and assistance to small logging operators. If small operators had been assisted by the federal government some years ago we would have had less unemployment in Canada today.

Some years ago many of these small logging concerns were operating in British Columbia and contributing to the community. Many of the new ideas now being applied in the industry came from these small operators who did not have too much money and consequently had to figure things out carefully and make the best use of the equipment they had. Practically every invention which large companies now employ originated with these small operators. I would imagine that the hon. member for Comox-Alberni would be able to give some practical ideas in this connection because he was certainly a logger who understood his business.

One of the main difficulties about operating a small logging business was the difficulty of raising finance. I can recall that in 1937 when I went into the business we had to buy used equipment, and the timber was scattered; about all the timber we got was small timber which the large companies did not feel they could profitably use. But if one went to a bank for a loan it was just about necessary to put gold on the counter as a guarantee against anything one sought to borrow. Yet not everyone was so unfortunate. I can remember that one of the Japanese camps burnt down, and within 20 days, a bank manager I knew told me, they received a cheque from the Japanese government for \$80,000 to help them get started again. That is what I mean when I talk about assisting small operators.

I lived for some years in the United States, and to this day in the United States a small operator can raise sufficient money from the banks to purchase a business, providing the business, after investigation by the banks, seems to be a good one, and provided the man is honest and experienced. I have known loans of up to \$75,000 being made to a man who knew his business, in this case the hotel business, although he had nothing to offer except his honesty and ability. For years we have had a number of young people in Canada

[Mr. Matthews.]

entitled to similar considerations. The former government did nothing to help them and I think we have lost a great number of good men for this reason. Indeed, our country has been more or less regimented because the small man cannot get the start to which he is entitled.

I have mentioned the small operators. We have a number who are doing very well in the district from which I come. For instance, one man in Nanaimo has done tremendous work in the community and I could go on to speak of other loggers who have done a tremendous job. In the old days one used to see a truck with the words written on the side: "Tom Jones, proprietor" or a store with the name "Bill Thompson" on it. That is no longer the case, and instead one is likely to see on a building or a truck some such words as "Main Office, New York". I think we should get away from this and Canadians should have an opportunity of starting out increasingly in businesses of their own. I think the proposed new department can do a lot towards this end. Certainly that would lead to the improvement of the economy of the country and to greatly increased employment.

The main profits from our rich timber have not always gone to those local people who worked to make them possible. I remember in 1937 I was driving through a residential part of the city of Colebrook. I remarked on some beautiful houses which had been built along the road and my companion said I would be surprised to learn that the houses in that block had all been built by forest products. I do not mean the lumber; the men who built these houses built them from the money they had made by working in the industry on Vancouver island. I imagine that the loggers who worked there at that time did not have anything like the advantage that these operators had.

Again, I express my hearty approval at this action which the Prime Minister has taken, as I know all right-thinking members of this house will do, perhaps with the exception of the hon. member for Laurier (Mr. Chevrier). I think that as though he certainly will give the measure support, it will not be hearty approval. It was surprising to hear the hon. member for Laurier saying he was not rising either to approve this legislation or oppose it. In other words, he was not here to go forward or backward. I think the hon. member and some of his party were out of gear for many years.

What this new department of forestry can do to build up the economy of Canada is almost unlimited. It should have been done by the former government, but they took