

Supply—Forestry

those are all the general remarks I wish to make.

Mr. Herridge: Mr. Chairman, I am very sorry to have been unavoidably absent from the chamber when the minister introduced his estimates. When I heard they were before the house I promptly left my constituents and came down. I want to compliment him, as he is a minister with ideas. While we do not always agree with his application of ideas, he does put forward something that we can at least consider. I think he puts forward some progressive measures. I also wish to express my appreciation of the work done by the staff of the forestry branch, both in the forest products laboratory and in the field. I have known many of them for a good number of years.

I am wondering if there is any difficulty in this department's obtaining the staff it requires to undertake the necessary research, both in the laboratory and in field operations. If there are any staff shortages at the present time, could the minister explain to the house the reason why those shortages prevail? I also want to know what co-operation exists between federal and provincial governments, the universities, and industry with respect to the planning of research, and what these persons who are particularly interested in development and research consider to be the most important aspects of research to be undertaken at any given time. I should like the minister to point out one or two examples of research being carried on in particular fields that will be easily recognized by the greater number of people engaged in and interested in the development of the forestry industry.

● (3:20 p.m.)

I should like to know what is being done with respect to diseases and pests, and on what basis research into those subjects is planned. Also I want to know what is being done with respect to fire prevention, and with respect to land inventory and forest inventory that the minister mentioned. I should like him to give us some idea of the type of agreement reached between the federal government and the provinces for carrying out any one of these projects, particularly those connected with forest inventory and land inventory.

I would also be interested to know the extent of the co-operation which exists between the provincial governments and the

[Mr. Aiken.]

department, as well as between the Department of Forestry and the Department of Industry, especially with regard to research aspects of this work. Let the minister also tell us what arrangements he has for co-operation with organized labour particularly in the field of conservation and the promotion of a proper regard for our natural resources.

I wish now to direct the minister's attention to one aspect of policy which in the opinion of several of us has not received sufficient attention from his department. It may seem strange, coming from a pragmatic socialist, but I have in mind particularly the private ownership of forests by individuals or by small companies. I was recently at a meeting where this matter was the subject of considerable discussion. It was generally agreed that a clear definition of policy was needed from both federal and provincial governments on the management of private woodlands.

We think this type of development is co-extensive with the development of the economic family farm and that it should be encouraged by both levels of government. While the discussion to which I referred was taking place a good many persons expressed the opinion that there had been a notable absence of any expression of interest in this phase of resource development on the part of the federal and provincial departments directly concerned. I should like to hear the minister's views on this question.

This brings me to the subject of the literature published by the department, especially by the forest products laboratory. I wonder whether this literature is reaching as wide a segment of our population as it should. I have followed this work for 20 years. It is excellent work and I believe it is necessary that it should be undertaken. I have a great deal of respect for the staff which is undertaking this. I knew Colonel Jenkins personally. He settled in the Shuswap lake area about the same time as we did in the Kootenays. He has always been interested in this problem. I am not sure that this literature is reaching as many people as it should. I presume industry is getting it, particularly the smaller companies and corporations. But why not make it available to chambers of commerce, trade unions and similar bodies to give them some idea of what is being done?

I found the Department of Agriculture was putting out an excellent publication indicating the protection which is being afforded to the consumer by the work of the department.