

—more so in Ontario and Quebec and the maritimes—who annually depend on a reasonable sale price for their agricultural crop of pulpwood.

Mr. Speaker, you asked me if pulpwood came under this bill. I said, "Yes, it does".

Mr. Speaker: I recall that I raised the question when the hon. member was speaking previously. I assume that he brings pulpwood under agricultural products and I am not disposed to dispute that interpretation with him.

Mr. Baskin: It is not mentioned in the named commodities in clause 2, subsection (1) (a) (i) which reads as follows:

2. In this Act,

(a) "agricultural commodity" means

(i) any of the following commodities produced in Canada, namely, cattle, hogs and sheep; butter, cheese and eggs; and wheat, oats and barley not produced in the designated area as defined in the Canadian Wheat Board Act; hereinafter called "named commodity";

I submit that pulpwood will be included among the items covered in paragraph (ii) which reads as follows:

(ii) any other natural or processed product of agriculture designated by the governor in council as an agricultural commodity for the purposes of this act, hereinafter called "designated commodity";

The dominion bureau of statistics consider pulpwood to be a product of agriculture. I have here the Canada Year Book, 1956. At page 419, under the heading of "Agriculture" and the subheading "Cash income from the sale of farm products by source 1952-54", you will find the item "Forest products sold off farms". The Ontario department of lands and forests had something to say in one of my local papers, namely the *Renfrew Advance* of January 9, 1958, and I should like to put this on the record. The article is headed "Farm woodlots valuable resource" and reads as follows:

The familiar ring of the axe and whine of the power saw are sounds that can be heard these days in many of the farm woodlots throughout the district. These sounds tell us that once again farmers are busy harvesting their sylvan crops of sawlogs, pulpwood, poles, ties or fuelwood.

For many farmers this winter activity has become an established part of the farming enterprise and winter does not seem complete unless some cutting is done. Good woodlots that are well stocked with high quality trees give the farmer the opportunity to put his time and effort to good use during the winter months. They also provide the means of supplementing the farm income through the sale of material harvested from these areas.

Well managed woodlots have proven value to the individual farmer, to the community and to industry. They have a steady effect on the economy of an agricultural community and represent a continuous and reliable source of raw material for our various wood-using industries.

Agricultural Products—Price Stabilization

If our woodlots are to yield their crops of valuable material year after year, farmers must understand and apply some of the elementary principles of woodlot management.

There is an increasing interest and activity in the preservation and management of woodlots throughout Ontario.—Ontario Department Lands and Forests.

I mentioned previously that farmers, on whose behalf I speak, have supplied from their bush lots during the past year over 2 million cords of pulpwood at ridiculously low prices to the pulp industry. I want to repeat to our Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Harkness) that a thorough investigation should be made by the Department of Agriculture to ascertain why our farmers should be forced to sell this valuable soil production at sometimes less than half the price that companies pay for wood coming from their own limits.

Many farm areas in Canada have, in the past quarter century, become depressed while at the same time there have been the so-called broad areas that have expanded. The marginal farmer, on whose behalf I speak, has heard nothing about this expansion, and I know that this bill is going to prove mighty good news to him.

On many of the farms in the riding that I represent the windows have been boarded up in recent years, and the people have been driven from their homes by the policies of the late government. Certainly the farmer was the forgotten man for many years. The party that I have the honour to represent appreciates the fact that the farmer is entitled to a fair return on his labour and investment. We also understand that the farmer is entitled to fair prices for his products, keeping in mind that he has had to pay more and more for the machinery and goods required to operate his farm. Rising labour costs have also proved to be a great problem to the farmer. In 1951 there were 3,575 occupied farms in two constituencies in Renfrew county. In 1956 this number had dropped to 3,200. In fact, Mr. Speaker, in 1951 there were 24,638 operating farms in eastern Ontario; in 1956 there were 22,798. In other words, 1,840 farmers were forced out of business in five years.

The estimated farm income in the year 1951 was \$786,805,000 compared to \$749,293,000 in 1956, a drop of \$37,512,000; eastern Ontario farm income in 1951 was \$105 million and by 1956 it had dropped to \$94 million.

The production of cheddar cheese in eastern Ontario in 1956 was 35,243,922 pounds and in 1946 it was 51,361,086 pounds. In the county of Renfrew the cheddar cheese output fell from 417,691 pounds in 1946 to 136,990 pounds in 1956. So, in Renfrew South and in other constituencies