

Government Organization

regard they should be assisted by the federal government.

We were speaking about resource conservation, a subject in which I have been interested all my life. Over the years I have collected much interesting material on what can happen when resource conservation is not properly carried out in the cropping of some of our resources. There is a good example on Vancouver Island which I should like to give to the house. Four or five years ago there was an improvement in the situation due to federal planning, I am glad to say. One cannot blame the federal government for the small problem which I will describe. It has really been a provincial program which has allowed a logging operation to be carried out at the headwaters of the small streams on Vancouver Island with the result that an entire run of salmon yielding over \$1 million a year was wiped out. The minister cannot tell the department of forestry of British Columbia that they must prevent this from happening. This is where the careful nurturing of these resources must take place. There are some difficulties to be faced. For example, where does logging in the watersheds stop for the good of the community generally?

I have here a few notes which I would like to read to the house. They deal with a little river called the Tsolum, a small stream on Vancouver Island that runs into the sea. A few years ago before logging took place in the upper reaches of this river it had a fine run of different types of salmon which normally come to the coastal rivers as my friend the minister probably knows better than I. Pink and chum salmon used to swarm up the 22 miles to the foot of Mount Washington from which this stream came down where the shale outcrops formed walls and halted the salmon in their search for spawning ground. Just about every mile of this stream was used by the fish prior to the logging operation taking place. More than 150,000 chum, 200,000 pink salmon and, later in the fall, 50,000 coho use this little stream for spawning. Year after year they return to the river to spawn and, of course, the fry make their way to the ocean eventually to mature.

● (12:10 p.m.)

Hon. members can try to estimate their value in terms of dollars if they like. The International Salmon Commission estimates, that for each salmon on the beds, between 2.4 and 4.2 salmon have been caught by the fishing fleet. Let us take an average of three.

This produces a figure of 450,000 to 600,000 pink salmon from this one little stream. They are worth about 50 cents each to the fishermen, so the total amount would be between \$225,000 and \$300,000 derived from this one species of fish alone. There are the runs of chum at 18 cents a pound. These fish weigh about eight or nine pounds each and the return to the fishermen runs between \$675,000 and \$900,000. Then there are the coho. Fifty thousand used to spawn and they too have value. Making allowance for natural disasters the value to the fishermen derived from this one little stream would be at least a million dollars.

What happened? Logging of the watershed began. This illustrates the point I am making; we are so foolish and stupid about these things. Trees were removed from the watershed and in the absence of forest covering the stream dwindled to a hot trickle. The federal government attempted to divert water from elsewhere to build up the flow during summer and repair some of the damage done. This was a good conservation move but it would not have been necessary if proper care had been taken by the provincial authorities who were responsible for the trouble in the first place. Last year, was a wet year and conditions were relatively good, but the year before there was only a trickle of water flowing. As a result, the number of chum spawning in the channel was cut to less than 100 and in 1963 it was down to 25 from the vast number which had used the stream earlier. This is what I have in mind when I talk about the conservation of resources. These are things to weigh in the balance. I am thinking of the log run which might have harmed the salmon fishery last year, of the dispute between the province and the federal government, of the continuing pollution in our streams, of the continuing pollution of the Fraser. If we are not careful, we are going to destroy some of the finest salmon spawning beds in the whole of Canada.

These are some of the realities we must face. The minister will find himself in a difficult position. I understand that his responsibilities are federal, but the need for a co-ordinated attack is essential. More work has to be done. This is my appeal to the minister and to the house today. The fishing industry perhaps does a good job in trying to preserve certain species of fish. But then we allow some stupid move, some unco-ordinated action by another department, to destroy all the good which has been done. This is why I appeal for better co-ordination in the over-all