

Supply—Forestry and Rural Development

You will notice when you pick up your daily paper that much space is devoted to some movie star who is getting a divorce under certain circumstances, but I will guarantee you will not see much of import in this debate reported, even though the member for Kootenay West is speaking. This is an indication of the values in our society, and with the exception of three or four of the gentlemen of the fourth estate who are interested in this question, most of them would get much more news out of my getting up and denouncing the minister and calling him some unmannerly names.

Before I sit down I want to bring to the attention of the minister that, as I have mentioned, I have been keenly interested in the work of the Canadian Tree Farmers Association for a number of years. It is not a large organization numbering less than 400 members at the present time, but it has been a delight to work with these people, some of whom are professors in forest management in various universities. Others, with a little money, and a philosophical interest in this subject, have bought farms. They have planted trees and are doing conservation work. At the same time they are using the farms as summer homes.

Some are actually tree farmers, and doing general farming at the same time. I want to bring to the attention of hon. members that we presented a brief to the special committee of the Senate on land use in Canada which dealt with the whole question of the taxation of private forest lands. We dealt with the question of forestry improvement, management and production, the grading and scaling standard for wood cut on private lands, and so on. If anyone is really interested in this question I suggest he would be well advised to read that brief, because it was composed as a result of co-operation between some scientists and technical people and persons who have a long personal experience in the operation of privately owned tree farms or wood lots.

Mr. Mongrain: Would the hon. gentleman allow a question? I have heard so often that the lot of the farmers is not a very interesting one. Would he please tell the house if forest farming is a paying proposition?

Mr. Herridge: Well now, the hon. member has put me in a spot. Let me explain that prior to being elected a member of parliament I lived for 50 years in complete independence and security on a tree farm slightly above the social welfare level, and

[Mr. Herridge.]

enjoyed every moment of it. Does that answer his question? I must explain that if you live under these circumstances you do not require \$10,000 or \$12,000 a year to live comfortably, because in addition to what we get from our timber we smoke our own bacon, raise our own cattle and burn our own wood in our own furnaces. We also make our own cider and wines. In fact I might tell the hon. gentleman that I am the only member of parliament who lives in a log cabin, and I am proud of it.

An hon. Member: Hear, hear.

Mr. Herridge: I do want to thank the minister for his co-operation in connection with the interest that has been shown in the Kootenays with respect to the ARDA program. The two regional boards within Kootenay West are very interested in this matter, as are the cities, the towns and all the villages. I am grateful to the minister for informing me that people in these areas should write to Dr. L. E. Pratt, director of rural development—western region—rural development branch, Department of Forestry and Rural Development, Box 981, Winnipeg 1, Manitoba. Also he gave them the names of the provincial officials.

They have had two meetings since then and they are getting the federal and provincial officials to come in and discuss with them a planned development on a regional basis of certain projects within our district. I must say they seem very enthusiastic about it and we are looking forward to the time when the construction of the Columbia dams will be completed and a program of this sort will be required to supplement the smaller farms and the forest industry which will continue from that time on, as well as the tourist and recreation development.

I also want to thank the minister for sending out copies of his speech. I see the latest one was on the need for federal-provincial co-operation in regional development. I am sending a photostat copy of the speech to the various villages and towns. As I have said many times, I meet many people who are not happy. Happiness does not depend on money entirely. One has to have enough to live decently, educate one's children and ensure some security in one's old age, but real happiness is found in working in association with other people with a purpose that has a communal inspiration, on programs of this type and on other programs.

In concluding my few remarks I should like to say that I wish the minister every