

*Government Orders*

on the humidity of the atmosphere, and of course, forests therefore influence rainfalls.

These voices, Mr. Speaker, as you and I both know, seemed slow to be heard. Heavy cutting had taken place for nearly a century before Canada's first forestry congress was called in 1906. It was at about that time as well that the University of New Brunswick and the University of Toronto established their first forestry schools.

In 1907 in British Columbia, the Hon. Frederick Fulton, who was incidentally the father of the Hon. Davey Fulton who carved such an important niche for himself in this place, was appointed to the royal commission on the conservation of our forests.

The reason for this slow progress was explained in more recent time by H. R. MacMillan, one of the great foresters of Canada, in an address that he gave on the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the faculty of forestry at the University of Toronto. He said that Canadians still believe today that the forest is inexhaustible and self-perpetuating. It is expected to continue automatically performing its role as inevitably, as cheaply and as dependably as the tides. Canadians do not yet fully recognize that the forest as a crop is continuously most productive only if there is investment in silvicultural management.

Well, Mr. Speaker, you would agree that it is important that these facts be seen in light of the history of the Canadian forest products industry. Industry began, of course, at the earliest time of our history in Canada. The early settlers needed trees to build their homes and their barns and then made masts and timbers for sailing ships.

Our modern industry began writing its history perhaps back in 1803 when the first Canadian newsprint was made in Quebec. Groundwood paper was made for the first time in the western hemisphere in Halifax in 1841. In 1864, soda pulp was being made in Sherbrooke. The year before confederation, Canada's first groundwood pulp mill was erected in Valleyfield. Up to this point, all that happened, of course, without anyone giving any thought to forest management.

Perhaps it can be said that any government relation to forestry had its beginning on July 24, 1899, when an Order in Council created the post of Chief Inspector of

Timber and Forestry. That was the first evidence of any federal initiative in this important area.

That modest move was the forerunner of the Canadian forestry service. The chief inspector called a meeting in 1900, the turn of the century, a meeting which gave birth to the Canadian Forestry Association which still thrives today. I know that you would agree, Mr. Speaker, that if anyone deserves credit for what we are doing here today from outside this place, it is the Canadian Forestry Association. Throughout our country, it carries on youth programs, and I want to attest to the fact that I have received no better advice and no better counsel from anyone than my friends in the Canadian Forestry Association.

The next milestone in Canadian forest history, I suppose, came during the Second World War when forestry matters across Canada came under the so-called federal timber control board. In 1949 the Canadian Forestry Act was passed. In 1955 we hosted a Commonwealth Conference on Resources which gave impetus and produced a call for urgent action, a call, which of course, as I already said, the then Prime Minister, Mr. Diefenbaker, answered in 1960.

I think there is hardly an argument that it is once again time to address this important issue of giving forestry in Canada the attention it must be given, the attention it merits, as a driving force in Canada's economic, social, environmental and ecological future.

We can no longer be complacent and feel that Canada is somehow exempt from events which have devastated other nations that did not manage their forests properly. In fact, the history of some nations is often the history of their forests. Fertile lands in the Middle East, flowing, as it is said in Biblical poesy, with milk and honey and favoured with a pleasant climate, were stripped of their forests. It did not take long before life-giving rivers became insignificant streams and valleys were washed away leaving an arid and a desolate land.

A similar fate hit portions of Sicily, Greece, Italy and Spain, to name but a few. Even in central Europe, there were threats. In the 1600s a Frenchman by the name of Colbert cried that France would be lost if the forests were not saved. "*France perira en faute des Bois*," he cried. France passed the celebrated Forest Ordinance Act in 1669, an Act which was so far-sighted that every modern