

Forestry Department

various costs of sawing in relation to the diameter of logs. Just a few figures drawn from that diagram will suffice to show the importance of that factor. On a basis of 100 per cent as the cost of sawing logs eight inches in diameter, the diagram shows that the cost reaches 117 per cent for seven inch logs, 152 per cent for six inch logs, and 230 per cent for five inch logs.

The new department, suggested by the bill, could transpose in practice, through special regulations, the application of the concrete results obtained in the various specialized laboratories.

Mr. Speaker, in closing these few remarks in favour of Bill C-82, I must again emphasize the urgent necessity of such a measure, without taking into account all the economic losses we could have avoided if we had had such a department before. Among those losses, were the many woodlots that have been so inopportunately ruined, causing the abandonment of so many farms and ultimately the desertion of budding settlements. In fact, the more sawing there was of small logs, the greater was the deficit, and all the more rapidly were we destroying that natural wealth located in the most accessible places.

I also wish that this department may soon promote economic ways of quick processing of wood products from farmers' private lands. There again, the too small revenue now obtained by our farmers for their wood products has greatly handicapped the sustained development of our rural economy.

In the light of my experience in woodlot operations, the advice I have received from technicians and the examples I have seen of scientific cutting, I can assure the house that the new department of forests, in concretely applying scientific data to our forest economy, will demonstrate its necessity by actual results.

Mr. Armand Dumas (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to delay in any way the passage of this measure. However, I feel it is my duty to say a few words about the establishment of this new department that will be called the department of forestry.

The provinces have the exclusive right to administer as they see fit forests located on public property within their boundaries under section 92, subsection 5, of the British North America Act. In relation to this exclusive right of the provinces we have the assurance from the Prime Minister, sponsor of this bill, that

nothing in the present legislation allows the new department to infringe in any way upon the rights and jurisdiction of the provinces.

As far as we are concerned, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson) has clearly stated the Liberal party's position. He made quite clear in his statement that we deem advisable the establishment of such a department.

Now, if the provinces have exclusive rights respecting the administration of their forest lands, nothing prevents them, however, from accepting any assistance offered by the federal government.

Like many others, I feel that the task of developing our forests and of managing forest production comes under the joint responsibility of the federal government, the provincial government and the lumber companies. It is the duty of those three authorities to see that our forests not only are maintained in a state of production, but that production is improved.

When we deal with our forest resources, we must take into account what forests mean to our country. In 1958, our exports of lumber, forest products, pulp and paper reached the amount of \$1.4 million. This represents more than 30 per cent of the total value of our exports.

Furthermore, when discussing our forest resources, we must consider this: What would be the effect on our economy should our forestry resources become depleted?

It is said that every day, 3,000 acres of woodlands are used up for fuel wood; that 3,000 acres of woodlands are destroyed by fire, disease and insects; further, that 2,500 acres of woodlands are used to supply our pulp and paper industry; and that finally, another 3,000 acres are used to supply our lumber industry.

Every day, therefore, close to 12,000 acres of woodlands are being practically laid bare. While we do have over a million square miles of forest it can be readily seen that, unless we provide for reforestation and sound management of those wooded areas, this national resource could vanish in a relatively short time. In referring to a relatively short time, I do not mean 25 or 30 years, but something like 100 and 150 years. So unless we insure the renewal of those forest crops, unless we promote the sound management and protection of such lands, we may be letting a most important resource go to waste.