

Criminal Code

not only acts as a means of control in time of flood, but it also provides adequate means by which the flow can be maintained during the summer months of drought.

The policy of the former government in connection with projects of this nature was to make a contribution of 37½ per cent. However, they did not enter into any agreement with the authorities or the provinces in connection with smaller dams. It is felt by many of the people who belong to these river valley authorities that probably the federal government would be better advised to take a greater interest in the construction of smaller dams because, in many instances, these dams would be more beneficial and the effect on the stream flow would be better than the construction of large dams. I refer to this subject during the discussion of this resolution because I feel it is one field in which the federal government should give some aid through the construction of smaller dams.

However, if all the water from the sewage disposal plant were pure there would still be a certain amount of pollution which comes from the farm land itself. I am speaking, of course, of the silting in. If, during the years, it is the practice to increase the amount of insecticide and fertilizer used in our soils I suppose that contamination would increase. As I listened to one of the remarks made by a member about the laws that had been passed down through the years, and how little has been gained from legislation, I was reminded of a statement made by Aldo Leopold, that great conservationist in the United States who passed away back in 1948. He was also a very great scientist, and he had this to say, when speaking about conservation, flood control and reforestation:

Something is lacking and because of that lack education, law and public works fail to accomplish what they hope to accomplish. Without it the high-minded impulse to educate, to legislate and to manage becomes as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal. And the thing that is missing is love, some feeling for as well as some understanding of the inclusive community of rocks, soils, plants and animals of which we are a part.

He came to that conclusion after years and years of work on conservation measures which he felt were necessary. He felt it was necessary, if people were to be interested in such problems as pollution, soil erosion, forest fires and so on, that they have a greater appreciation of nature so that they would have a genuine respect for it. It is very difficult, unless all our citizens have that appreciation, to legislate them into performing these works.

In conclusion, I should like to say that I believe this is an urgent matter. We should attack it from every angle, and especially

[Mr. Knowles.]

through the methods of conservation which would aid greatly in stream flow. I feel also it is time that the federal government, along with the provinces, made a survey of stream flow to determine the amount of waste material these streams could assimilate. I also believe a study of the sewage disposal systems in some European countries such as Great Britain, Germany and Sweden could give us much valuable information on methods by which this urgent problem could be attacked.

Mr. R. J. McCleave (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, the problem of water pollution presented itself to me in a rather drastic way a week ago today when I was visiting in upper New York state. I sat down to a dinner which included a fine steak and a rather muddy looking glass of water. I took a sip of the water before digging into the steak. The water tasted badly and it smelled badly, so I set down the glass and looked at the water for a moment. My neighbour, who was a minister, turned to me and said, "I must assure you, young man, that the water is not polluted". I kept repeating this remark over to myself, "The water is not polluted"; and after saying it five or six times, autosuggestion took effect, my stomach whirled about and I had to leave the banquet in disgrace.

My first words, therefore, must be to compliment the hon. member for Selkirk (Mr. Stefanson) for bringing this grave problem before us in the widest possible terms. He has not attempted to narrow down water pollution to navigable waters or anything of that sort but rather he would make it a criminal offence to pollute water. In this way I think it would cover three aspects of the subject which I should like to deal with in my remarks. I refer to water from the standpoint of drinking, from the standpoint of swimming and also for the support of fish life.

In Halifax riding we have the problem of pollution. We have one river, namely the Sackville river, which has become polluted to the extent that the fish hatchery operated by the Department of Fisheries is not able to turn out the brands of fish that it formerly turned out. We have there the problem of the Bedford Basin, a magnificent if somewhat chilly spot for swimming which every morning and every evening when the tide comes in, has a great array of garbage, peelings and old papers floating across it. This is perhaps pollution from the city dump, although the city of Halifax is quick to disclaim this suggestion and to say that it is pollution from an industry alongside the city dump. We have the Northwest Arm which several sewers enter and in recent years there has been