

*Government Organization*

spraying of various type of trees to prevent disease, and the spray getting into the rivers and killing some runs of fish. I will come back to this problem. I think the members of this house have a job to do in regard to resource conservation, and we must face up to that job.

I believe we need a co-ordinating committee to co-ordinate the activities of all departments as far as resource conservation and management are concerned. I have all the respect and regard in the world for the minister's abilities, but he will have a tough job ahead of him. I know he is not in a position to go to a provincial government and say: You cannot build a pulpmill here, or a pulpmill there. But this is part of the planning that I am talking about. This is an area in which we must have far more co-operation provincially and federally than we have ever had before.

• (12 noon)

Someone has mentioned that this problem should be taken up at another constitutional conference, and I certainly agree with that. I think we should sit around the table with the provincial authorities and come to some clearcut, definite agreement on how and where the two levels of government can augment each other's programs for the benefit of all Canadians. It would be a tragedy if we were to allow the depletion of a resource. For example, let us consider the case of a pulpmill. If we were to allow the effluent from the pulp mill to pollute the streams it would wipe out the product on which the livelihood of a number of people depends, namely, the fish which spawn in these streams.

To date there has not been sufficient co-operation between the two levels of government to wipe out the problem I have mentioned. I can give instance after instance—and the minister is well aware of them—where we have started to develop one resource without any over-all plan. The consequence has been that within a few years' time another resource has been adversely affected. We are trapped in plans of our own making because, as I said, there has been a complete lack of liaison and co-operation between the two levels of government. It is absolutely essential for us to break this down if we are really to plan for proper resource development both at the federal and provincial levels.

I should like to come back to forestry for a few minutes, but I will not spend too much time on this subject. I am well aware of the

[Mr. Harding.]

programs which are being carried out by the federal department concerned with forestry and of the research that has been undertaken in this field, but I believe that better use should be made at the federal level of the economic returns which come into the federal treasury and that this should be done in co-operation with the provincial authorities.

Let us consider reforestation. There has been great negligence in this area and every provincial government is almost equally as guilty. Our forests have been cut down and there have been insufficient replanting programs. This has occurred in practically all the provinces with the exception of Saskatchewan where a pretty good program was initiated a number of years ago under the C.C.F. government. They looked to the future in their replanting and cutting programs. We find in British Columbia today that many thousands of acres are lost every year through burning and cutting and that different types of trees grow on them which form a cover over the acreage. The first thing we know we find millions of acres of good land in British Columbia covered by rough growth which could and should be producing crops. This is one field where further assistance could be given by the federal authorities. There is also a shortage of nurseries for growing nursery stock, but most of all there is a shortage of money to hire people to replant some of these areas.

I suggest to the federal government and to the minister that the returns to the federal department justify more thought on the subject, and more effort should be made to replant this waste land. It can be called waste land because it will take a long time before natural regeneration can take place and another crop of trees can mature. The return is in the hundreds of millions of dollars, and I believe that this problem must be taken care of if our forestry program is to be satisfactory.

There is another aspect of forestry where federal assistance could be provided and that is in the prevention of forest fires. A vast co-ordinating system should be set up in this country and expenditures should be made by the federal government to assist the various provinces when the scourge of forest fires hits them. This is another aspect which I would like to bring to the minister's attention, and I suggest that something should be done along these lines. There are all kinds of training programs and techniques which some of the provinces possibly cannot afford, and in this