

Supply—Forestry

eastern world follow its work in basic and applied research. We are constantly in contact with forestry departments and universities everywhere in the world. Scientists from various countries work on their own projects in our laboratories and some of our public servants do the same in foreign countries. We stand very high in international circles. This is due especially to the research work which was undertaken by the Department of Agriculture and which is still continuing. In June, the Sixth International Forestry Convention will be held in Madrid, where more than 20 of our researchers will present papers; this forestry convention is sponsored by the F.A.O.

[English]

There are in certain parts of Canada difficult problems to solve in the forest industry. One of the most urgent which affects both the forests in British Columbia and in Newfoundland is the balsam woolly aphid. So far, while research has been conducted in Canada and the United States into the problem, we have been unable to find a solution to it. There has been a special crash program started this year in British Columbia and we hope to be able to find some solution to eradicate this disease, which seems to attack trees in a way which makes it impossible for the forest industry to cut the wood and use it.

We also have in many parts of Canada specific diseases which the federal government is combating. We have special programs in New Brunswick and in the province of Quebec. Generally speaking, these diseases have not increased and we have been able to stop the spread of certain tree diseases. But they always remain a danger and much of our effort in the department is devoted to the prevention of disease or the sickness of trees.

In the department there is probably the largest concentration of Ph.D.'s and masters of science in any department of the government of Canada. These people are doing wonderful research and I would want to seize this occasion to praise their work. Many members of this house have come in contact with our researchers in their own provinces, and they know the quality of the work being done in our department.

I mentioned earlier that we have a large expansion program which will shortly be under way. We will announce the program soon so that the universities can prepare to train the scientific personnel who will be required by the department over the next six

[Mr. Sauv .]

to seven years. Generally speaking we have had no trouble with recruiting enough scientists to assume the responsibilities required in various laboratories across the country. The turnover in the department is not very large; it is quite normal and we are fortunate in having so many devoted servants across the country.

The reorganization of the department has gone well. There have been a few problems here and there over the location of the headquarters of the branches, but so far nothing too serious. We are proceeding with a special forest inventory and land capability survey in Labrador and Newfoundland. We are also proceeding under the other program with the Canada land inventory which covers all provinces in Canada. We have a shared-cost agreement with the provinces which has been in existence for the last five years. About \$8 million of our budget is devoted to this item in the estimates. We do not know what will be the future in this field; much depends on the results of the federal-provincial conference on fiscal arrangements this coming fall.

These, Mr. Chairman, are the few remarks I wanted to make on the presentation of my estimates. When the estimates for last year were discussed in February and March I sought the occasion to make some remarks relating to the work of the department. It is a small department in relation to many others. As we have been discussing in the last three days the ARDA program I would like to emphasize this particular aspect as far as our work in the department is concerned.

The Department of Forestry is also responsible for the feed grain assistance program. A bill will shortly be introduced in the house—it is already on the order paper—which will propose the creation of a feed grain assistance act. A similar act was to be introduced by the previous government. It was on the order paper on February 6, 1963, which was the day after the Tuesday the government was defeated in the house. Therefore I hope hon. members on both sides will support this bill which the house will have before it for discussion in the near future.

The department also administers the Maritime Marshland Rehabilitation Act which deals with some local problems in the maritimes. We have proposed to the provinces an agreement, signed by the three maritime provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, whereby by 1970 the maritime marshland rehabilitation