

Supply—Northern Affairs

speaking a little earlier, was throwing advice around freely with respect to forestry matters, but at the same time he spoke very lightly and deprecatingly about the need for us to face the matter of fire protection. Those of us who come from British Columbia, particularly in this tinder dry year when rain has not fallen since about May 13, do not treat such suggestions in a light vein at all. The loss, not only to our province but also to the nation as a whole, in the depletion of the timber inventory amounts to millions, and will reflect for a long time upon the earning power of the nation as a whole.

I am most anxious in my few words to bring to the attention of the committee the fact that the forest industry in my province pays over \$112 million annually in taxes to the dominion government, and that in the days of the previous administration less than 1 per cent of this had been returned to the province in the furthering of studies on silviculture, upon the development of access roads and for fire protection in order that this great national asset should remain in a state of self-propagation and should not be subject to the devastation of flames.

For the first time in many, many years our industry has had an opportunity to bring before the federal minister the problems contingent upon the provision of such fire protection. Other matters are of an international character. Over one third of our border is linked to its west to the Alaska Panhandle. The previous administration at no time provided funds or took an interest in seeing that the great forest wealth at the back of the United States panhandle border was protected, nor did they at any time endeavour to negotiate for or create a co-operative fire protection plan for the area. On our northern borders along the Yukon hundreds of miles of timber land lie exposed to the ravages of fire. The myopic view of the former Liberal administration demonstrated that they were not concerned in this respect.

I am indeed pleased to bring these matters to the attention of the committee, and in so doing to again congratulate the minister for having taken a new look, an imaginative look, at some of these problems. We look forward in the next three years to seeing many of the long delayed and long ignored problems faced in a factual way which will, in the long run, well serve the economy of our nation.

Mr. Granger: Mr. Chairman, I would like to comment briefly on northern development in Labrador, which is part of my constituency and constitutes one of the last great unknown

areas of the world. Sufficient is known, however, to indicate that it contains some of the largest and best iron ore and uranium deposits and forests anywhere in the universe. The greatest need in respect to development, as I see it, is the provision of roads; but as I understand the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources and the provincial government are working out a program in this connection, there is nothing I should say at this time.

However, I would like to mention that I believe the department should consider the possibility of building roads to the huge iron ore areas, and perhaps considering this as wholly a federal responsibility. There is also a great need for airports in Labrador, for these contribute considerably to the development of an area and Labrador, being inaccessible in any other way, must have facilities for air access. I trust the minister will keep this in mind when making his plans for northern development.

I would also like to mention that caribou are essential to the Indians and Eskimos in Labrador, and that the herd is diminishing. There are reports that caribou are being wantonly slaughtered by military aircraft flying from Goose Bay. This is perhaps largely a provincial responsibility, but I think it is something which should be investigated and the practice, if it exists, should be stopped.

The whole business of the development of our north appeals to the imagination and challenges the courage of everyone with an adventurous soul. I think in our north, and I might be forgiven for saying particularly in Labrador, we probably have a new Spanish Main to challenge those living in this new Elizabethan age. Certainly northern development is something which calls for bold thinking, and I would like to quote from an ancient and wise man, Demosthenes. His words are applicable to the subject under discussion today, a free translation of which is that as a good general marches at the head of his troops, so does a wise politician march at the head of affairs. He not only anticipates events, but by bold and imaginative policies he creates the event. I think the event we would all like to see created is the development of our northern empire.

At one o'clock the committee took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The committee resumed at 2.30 p.m.

Mr. Peters: Mr. Chairman, I am very happy to participate in the discussion on the administration item of the estimates of the