

*Forestry Department*

years later it is the second city in Newfoundland with a population of nearly 30,000. It plays a very important part in the economy of Newfoundland and the mill itself, if not the largest, is the second largest integrated newsprint mill in the world.

The newsprint industry is of particular importance to Newfoundland. The total production is somewhere in the vicinity of 600 thousand tons annually. The importance of the industry is not only in its total output, but also as a means of supplementary employment for the fishermen. This has not changed in recent years, and may be even more important now than it was 20 years ago. There are two reasons for this. The fall fishery in Newfoundland is no longer prosecuted to the extent it was years ago.

In addition, the fishing season is so short that those who are engaged in it are no longer able to make sufficient wages to enable them to live, with the result that they supplement their income in some other way. One of the chief reasons why the newsprint industry is important to Newfoundland is that it provides this supplementary income to those who at other times of the year are engaged in the fishing industry. This is particularly well indicated when we note that at any one time of the year only about 4,000 loggers could be accommodated in Newfoundland while actually over the cutting period 17,000 loggers are employed.

I would hope that when this department is set up it will give due consideration to the importance of conservation to the forest industry, not only in terms of preserving our natural timber stands but also in terms of preserving them from fire losses, insects and disease and also in terms of the conservation of soil, water and wildlife. These resources are of particular importance to Canada and I suggest to the house that the time will come when they will be of increasing importance.

I was interested in the minister's remarks when he referred to the losses in Canadian forests due to fire. There is no need here to present again the figures which the minister has presented. I am sure these figures should impress not only every member of this house but every Canadian who has any conception of the importance of the forest industries to the economy of this country. I believe that every effort should be made to reduce these fire losses if the forests of Canada are going to provide the raw materials which will keep the forest industries going at the level at which we believe they will operate in the future. Certainly Canadians have a keen conception of what conservation should mean but I believe this new department, along educational lines and in various other ways

will be able to bring more closely to their attention the need for Canada to preserve or conserve the forests of this country so that raw material will be provided for some time for the newsprint industry, the lumber industry and so forth.

We in Newfoundland are not unmindful of conservation. When John Guy came to Cupids in 1610 he realized the terrible disaster that would befall his settlement if the forests were destroyed by fire and he in fact made the first law in Newfoundland concerning forest fires when he said that no person should set a fire in the woods. Later in 1767 Hugh Palliser, then governor of the island, decided that setting fires to forests would be a crime and that those who did it in any part of Newfoundland should be brought to St. John's for trial. From 1900 to 1934 we can trace the growth of the department of agriculture and mines in Newfoundland and the efforts made to conserve our timber resources. In Newfoundland we have what is known as the Newfoundland forest protection association, a fine group of men who have given yeoman service to the province over the last few years in protecting our forests from the ravages of fire. We can think too of the forest fire act of 1905, the forest patrol act of 1910 and the amendments to those acts in 1933, 1945, 1948 and 1953.

When this new department is set up and consideration is being given to the various provinces with regard to conservation, inventories and other matters, I hope the minister of the department, whoever he may be, will give due consideration to the fact that in the last four or five years when the existing bureaus of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources and the Department of Agriculture gave services to various provinces, Newfoundland was unable to accept those services because of agreements between the provincial government and the paper companies. When consideration is being given to these matters under this new department I hope this fact will not be forgotten.

When this new department is set up, I would recommend for its study five particular topics; and I do not give these topics in the order of merit or the order of importance. First, I would suggest a good deal of time and money be spent on the need for research dealing with present uses of wood and the possibility of new uses; second, on the developing of trade policies which will increase exports of Canadian forestry products to all parts of the world where markets exist. It may be that in the future we shall find that markets for Canadian forestry products may change. For example, we can think of what