

Natural Resources

Canada through the development of secondary industry.

Exploitation is becoming a common word in the Canadian vocabulary, but I believe that regulations such as are proposed in this bill would assist not only northern Ontario but also northern Quebec and all other northern areas where primary products are produced. Such regulation would be in the interests of everyone.

• (5:10 p.m.)

I have been interested in this word "exploitation". When I went to school I always had the opinion that if reference were made to the exploitation of someone or something it meant that advantage was being taken of someone or something. "Exploitation" was always a dirty word. Yet, in our northern area we find people using the word "exploitation" as an exchange word for "exploration". There seems to be no particular adverse connotation in the word "exploitation". It seems to be a way of life so far as the Canadian public is concerned.

I believe most members who are concerned with this matter will agree that we should limit the exploitation of our natural resources, keeping in mind the potential each of these resources has in secondary industry, and that they will support this bill. I would be the first to admit that there are fields in which the secondary development of the primary product will be difficult and will take some period of time. I am sure that the regulations which would surround such a bill would take this into consideration. This bill was not presented in the expectation that it would pass. However, I think it will allow the members of the house and the people in the country at large an opportunity to consider a matter which has been of great concern to all who live in the primary producing areas, who see their natural resources being taken out of the area and in some cases taken out of the country as a whole before any manufacturing takes place or before any secondary industrial development is undertaken.

I believe that if a bill in this or in another form should receive the support of the house the transition which would take place in the newly developing areas of Canada would provide many Canadians with an opportunity to reverse the trend which now takes place, where a person has to move to the major cities in order to participate in the secondary industries of our nation. It would have the effect of pushing secondary development into

[Mr. Peters.]

the areas which are so greatly in need of such development, namely the primary producing areas.

I would appreciate support and criticism of this bill, so that Canadians will be able to get secondary development in those areas where at present no secondary industry is contemplated or anticipated.

[Translation]

Mr. Guy LeBlanc (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker in theory, the purposes of Bill No. C-10, are to limit, prohibit or regulate the exportation of primary resources, therefore we can only be in favour in principle of the passing of this bill.

If in a country as rich as Canada, with regard to natural resources, we could process completely our primary products and export them abroad, once we have met our domestic needs, obviously, it would be the ideal solution.

I think that everybody agrees with me that Canada is a great country. But a distinction must be made. It is a country of a tremendous size, very rich in natural resources, but if we compare the small density of its population, still growing over the years, with that of several European countries, smaller in size we can only come to the conclusion that Canada is a small country, which cannot use its primary resources due to its limited population.

Whence the need to satisfy our foreign customers and often to supply them with raw materials which we are unable to use or process ourselves, due to the lack of facilities.

The sponsor of this bill has forgotten, I think, that in a practical sense and under present circumstances, the aims of his bill are achieved.

In the province of Quebec, at least, the law contains specific prohibitions designed to protect our natural products and resources, especially in the case of wood products, in that it is forbidden to export unfinished products.

Unfortunately, the law has not always been adhered to but, nevertheless, I think that all in all, it is being observed and we all insist on that point.

I think also that the sponsor of the bill forgot that administration and development of our natural resources come under the jurisdiction of the provinces. If we consider the facts, the purposes and the measures advocated by this bill are, in practice, already a reality in Canada.