

*Government Orders*

system. It is said that our forests are the lungs of the globe.

I would anticipate that the new Department of Forestry will not suffer the same fate as predicted by some, as did the mandate that was established back in 1960. Today we are looking at our forests in a much different light.

One of our poets said some time ago that of all of nature's scenes it is the woods where she reveals her deepest secrets and bestows her greatest blessings and riches. How true that is when we look at it in the context of this debate.

Even in Canada there are limits to what the forests can produce for us if we do not take proper care. We will, of course, never run out of trees in Canada. Even in my province where 60 per cent of the economy is dependent upon our forests, we only use less than 30 per cent of the land base for commercial conversion. The rest is perhaps not as accessible economically or is so-called scrub or weed variety. Nevertheless those forests too are critically important to the environment. We are facing some very critical problems and some tough decisions have to be made.

We are engaged in serious conflicts over the use of our land, the need to set aside for environmental purposes certain critical areas that are ecologically sensitive. Of course we are required to respond to new demands for industry.

In the past I can recall reading in *Hansard* the words of Right Hon. Prime Minister John George Diefenbaker who pointed out in 1960 that it was estimated that industry would double in its capacity and its shipments over the next 15 years. Conservative as the then Prime Minister was, he was even too conservative in making those predictions because we went much further than doubling the output of this important industry. Today we have data and evidence which would indicate that over the next 20 years the industry will double again. Already we are the world's largest shipper of construction lumber, and we are playing the most important role in trade in many of our forestry products.

We are adding 100 million new people to the world's population. All of them will lay a claim to the scarce resources and, of course, the potential for growth in the

forest products industry is increasing at exponential rates. I predict that the present estimates are conservative again and the industry will require more fibre every year if we are to retain the share of our world markets that we have carved out for ourselves and indeed realize the potential we have to enlarge our market share. The countries with which we compete in world markets have very much reached their potential for increased yield and growth in their forests, harvesting second, third and fourth generation forests and having shifted to much more intensive management than we had to in the past many, many decades ago.

It is predicted by our scientists that we can get up to three times the volume of fibre if we shift to more intensive management modes. Really what this bill is all about is helping our industry make this transition, helping our industry improve its market share but helping our industry reshape its attitude toward our forests to the point where important business decisions are made not in accordance with market opportunities or the availability of investment capital but in accordance with the fibre that is available.

That requires us, of course, to equate all of the various concerns and all the various aspects of forestry. It means we will have to shift to more intensive management of those forests we have allocated for commercial conversion. It means that we have to look at other aspects such as tourism which comes to mind.

Tourism is an ever-increasingly important industry in our province of British Columbia, the second largest industry and growing. Our forests are the backdrop of the tourism industry so we have to keep that in mind and manage our commercial forests in a way that they provide an asset to that important sector.

Likewise wildlife, the streams and fresh air have to be considered in all of these equations. There has to be a refocusing of our research efforts, a mobilization of the combined efforts of everyone that has a stake in our forests, indeed, every individual Canadian, because our forests are very much a part of our psyche. They are part of our nature.

When you travel and mention the word "Canada", it is immediately related to forests, to tall trees, to the prairies, and some of the other assets we have.