

*Forestry Department*

lumber standards committee—I might say the gentleman who handed me this said that they appreciated very much what Colonel Jenkins had done in this direction—and as such representing the Canadian lumber industry in grade-marking negotiations in Washington with the United States federal housing administration.

You have no idea what a fright those regulations and standards cause the lumber industry in British Columbia. He was the head of the Canadian delegation to the British commonwealth forestry conference, Australia-New Zealand, 1957; the government representative on Canadian lumber industry delegation visiting the U.S.S.R. In attending international conferences, he has travelled extensively, visiting research institutes and forest industries in the United States, Finland, Scandinavia, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Philippines, Japan and the U.S.S.R. This gentleman who handed me the information goes on to say that he has supplied, in some detail, this information which he wishes brought to the attention of the house.

I have taken more time than usual, in a matter of this sort, Mr. Speaker. I believe, however, the time comes when we should recognize what has been done by senior civil servants in the forest branch of the department. I have said it before. I have had representatives of other countries, Great Britain, the United States and other countries repeatedly mention the devotion to duty, skill and ability of many senior civil servants in Canada.

Before concluding I want to say that I think it is most appropriate that the fifth world forestry conference is to be held in Seattle, Washington, from August 29 to September 10. I suppose the minister and some of his officials will be going to that conference. I should like to have the opportunity to go myself, and I intend to do so, but certain very important events are happening within the movement of which I am a member which possibly will prevent me from attending. However, I wish the Canadian delegation every success. I should like to say also that we trust, as a result of the passage of this legislation and the work of the resources for tomorrow conference in 1961, to which I am looking forward, that we will all soon be able to say with some measure of confidence, the tree farm age has arrived in Canada.

*(Translation):*

**Mr. Alfred Belzile (Matapedia-Matane):** Mr. Speaker, most hon. members who spoke before me in the debate on Bill C-82 have stressed the importance of forestry in relation to the Canadian economy, and have shown the need for setting up a forestry department

in the federal government. I, too should like to point out a few facts to show the urgent need for such a department.

At the very outset of my remarks, I should like to stress the constitutionality of a forestry department at the national level. It is true that under the British North America Act, crown timber lands belonging to the provinces comes under provincial jurisdiction. In that connection, I should like to quote section 92, subsection 5:

The management and sale of the public lands belonging to the province and of the timber and wood thereon;

It is also true, however, that in the same act, section 91, subsection 2, the constitution makes trade and commerce a responsibility of the federal government, and I quote:

The regulation of trade and commerce;

It therefore follows that once the timber from the crown lands of the various provinces has been acquired by private companies and cutting rights have been paid to the provinces, the same timber comes under the jurisdiction of the federal government, which is responsible for putting it on the market, including all the forecasting needed to provide for Canada's economic welfare.

In Canada, forestry exports are so important that we have to legislate to protect our markets for wood products. As legislators we have a duty to provide for the proper management of this trade. For instance, we must see that companies affected by the prices set for various types of paper make a profit commensurate with their investment and get a fair return, without usury, on their capital investments in that industry, so as to prevent the normal expansion of the Canadian markets from being jeopardized by uncompetitive prices.

Mr. Speaker, let me give a concrete illustration of this statement. In 1951 and 1952, the Canadian government authorized newsprint manufacturers to raise their prices by \$10 a ton twice in succession. As a result of the increased price of newsprint, Canada lost such customers as Great Britain, which turned to the Scandinavian and northern countries for part of its supply, to such an extent that in 1959, for the first time in its history with respect to this product, Great Britain bought more paper from Scandinavian countries than from Canada. Moreover, I can say that those price increases caused Canadian export firms to invest in the development of paper mills in the southern United States, capital which