

Supply—Northern Affairs

He went on to state the difficulties and underline all the overlapping and the failure to get any lead on this whole question of land use as it relates to geology, soil, forest coverage and so on; a tremendous theory. I think this criticism by one of the most brilliant men in his field in Canada, who had to get out of both the provincial and federal governments because he was so disturbed over the lack of co-operation and his general feeling that he was getting nowhere, is a very severe criticism of the role which the department, especially in so far as its forestry activities are concerned, has been playing.

It was very pleasing to me, and I am sure it will be very pleasing to the forest industry as a whole, to read the recommendation made by the committee in connection with forestry. There are two sentences appearing at page 264 of *Votes and Proceedings* which I would like to read. They are as follows:

Your committee recommends that increased attention be given to the compilation of material on water resources and to their multiple use, and, in the case of forestry, to forest research. Your committee also noted the increased emphasis being given in the United States to forest products research and recommends that the government give consideration to increased support of that activity in Canada.

Let us see that increased support given with greater and more energetic leadership, and a manifestation of the feeling that the minister and his department must get out and take the lead in this matter.

There are quite a number of ways in which forest research can operate at the present time, and I think the minister knows from the evidence given before the committee that his forest products research laboratories are understaffed. I was told of a case the day before yesterday in which a firm had sent a $4 \times 4 \times \frac{5}{8}$ plywood sheet to be tested last November but had still not received the results of the test. In the United States tests can be made by private laboratories and, as a consequence of the certificate given by the scientists concerned, the particular material can be accepted by federal housing authorities.

If we are going to be in the business of testing, and I am sure the federal laboratories are a worthy venture, then I think there is very little excuse for this sort of thing. We are aware that the weakness is probably the lack of staff, and I would like to repeat some suggestions I made in committee. The first is to clear up this staff question in the forest products laboratory right now and, if necessary, have crash sessions with the civil service commission. If men with Ph.D.'s and many years of experience are getting only \$6,000, \$7,000 and \$8,000 in these fields, and

are handicapped by lack of staff to help them, then I think we have a very poor situation and I would be very interested to know more about the morale in this area.

One of the generalizations I attempted to make was that the situation in the west coast laboratory is much happier than that in the Ottawa laboratory, and there is certainly a feeling that the laboratory there is producing more in relation to industrial knowledge than is being done in Ottawa. One of the aspects of forest products research in relation to integrated production is that in eastern Canada our pulp operations still are not using enough of the hardwood species such as birch and poplar, and what we need are more establishments to turn out veneers and core stock.

This integration is not only important from the point of view of economics; it is desperately important so far as the clearing off of what have been called weed species is concerned and improving to a much greater extent the silviculture. Instead of just going in and taking out all the conifers, the development of veneer mills and plywood mills will enable us to get a really integrated operation which will clear off the total coverage. This will also give us much better control of regeneration, and I think this is one aspect of research which must be stepped up by the forest products laboratories. Everything must be done which will further advance the veneer, core stock and plywood stock sector of the forest industry economy.

One of the things we have been doing in Canada is taking tremendous advantage of United States research. This is all to the good, but I wonder whether some sort of relationship could not be worked out between this country and the United States whereby our comparable problems could be considered jointly in order to give us an opportunity for more concentration, leaving greater scope for the United States to more specifically allocate their expenditures. In the United States government research laboratories undertake a great deal of work for industry on a contract basis, and I wonder if similar work could not be done in Canada if the terms were fair.

One of our major problems in forestry is that we have a very abnormal age distribution in most of our pulpwood limits. The minister knows the situation north of Kenora, where he has a summer home, and where hundreds of square miles are overmature and should be cut in the very near future. When they are cut, however, we will continue this pattern of abnormal age distribution, and this is one aspect of research with which I think the forestry branch should be far more concerned.

[Mr. Fisher.]