

*Natural Resources—Development*

the lecture he gave in which that statement was made, and I recall that I read a portion of it in this house. But I do not think it struck any of us at that time that there were those tremendous potential resources in that area. Now, if we made proper inquiry and if we had some idea of the national development plan, this sort of estimate of what we have to develop and what we have to plan could be undertaken and made, and we would know better how to proceed.

I agree, Mr. Speaker, that in northern Canada there are probably resources of which we have no knowledge which will bring to the people of Canada in the years to come a great deal of wealth, many opportunities and a better life.

With respect to the resources that we have, not only do we need development but we need conservation. Those of us who have lived in western Canada over the last half century—and it is going on to 48 years since I first went there—will remember how we thought the soil could not be depleted and that it was inexhaustible. The years of the 1930's came along and we learned a lesson. Today if you go on the prairies you will find the farmers there are practising conservation, so that if the dry years do come again and the winds blow there will never be the erosion there was in the 1930's. Our farmers are doing their share today in conserving the soil of the western plains.

Then as one goes through our forests and sees the depletion—yes, in some areas I know the forest reclothes itself and will give a yield of trees over the years—he comes to the conclusion that in some areas of this country if we want a perpetual forest cut there will have to be planning, there will have to be a conscious planning and authority. Yes, I agree it should be provincial but with federal encouragement, to see to it that the trees that are cut down are the trees that are ripe, to see that the trees which are taken out are the trees that are no longer needed there. The smaller trees should be encouraged to grow, or areas of land now treeless, which were once treed, replanted.

Last autumn I had the opportunity of driving through the Black Forest in Germany and seeing some of the lumbering that was going on there. Of course I was told what I knew already, namely that the Black Forest had been lumbered for centuries and would continue to be lumbered for centuries to come, because there is a plan. The government lays down the method by which the forest shall be cut and manner in which it shall be conserved.

I was in Norway and I saw the same thing there. No Norwegian can take down a tree without a permit. Are the people happy

about it? They do not see it as regimentation. No; they look upon it as conscious planning for the welfare of the people in the days to come. If we are to have a national development authority or plan, then we must have certain measures of control in relation to such a plan.

I know that jibes are sometimes thrown at us that we like controls. I do not like controls. I do not advocate them for the sake of instituting controls; but in certain circumstances we need public controls in order to protect our people and our resources from exploitation, or our forests from being denuded, and to keep them for future generations. I am happy to say that in some of our provinces controls are being exercised. For example, oil control is being exercised by the provincial governments; gas control is being exercised by the provincial governments so it cannot be all used up at once, or in only a few years, leaving future generations without the resources that are necessary for the public weal. The same thing applies to mining, and so on. Therefore we are all in favour of national development.

One could point out the many fields in which that development could take place and how it could be done by planning. I am not going to do that this afternoon but, of course, you cannot have development without finances. If you are to finance it properly, then you must somehow or other direct investment into socially desirable projects. As I said at the beginning, and if I were moving the amendment, I would say precisely that the government should establish a national investment authority to direct investments into desirable economic and social projects within our own country.

May I say to members of the government that if they were true to their platforms of the past they would vote for that, because my recollection is that for some years they had a national investment board as one of the benefits they were offering to the people of Canada if the Liberal government were returned to power; but we have not heard anything about it in recent times.

Well, now, several of my colleagues will develop various aspects of this problem and I am not going to intrude on what I expect they are going to talk about. All I want to do is place my party on record as being in favour of this:

... the Canadian people requires the adoption of a national development policy which will develop our natural resources for the maximum benefit of all parts of Canada.

Of course I would want something else in there to make it entirely satisfactory, such as "for all the people of Canada as individuals as well as groups of people in