

*Supply*

built my own home out of logs in my own constituency. I cut the logs, peeled them and built the dwelling myself. I split the shakes. It is beautiful to work with wood and to see the life systems that live within the forest.

As I said earlier, Sir John A. Macdonald noticed 112 years ago what was happening to the forests of this country. Nothing has been done for more than a century but, hopefully, urban Canadians will wake up and realize that there is a great future in spending wealth to create more wealth in this sector of our economy.

**Mr. Friesen:** Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton) knows that between Juskatla and Charlotte City in his riding, MacMillan Bloedel is engaging in extensive tree farming and working with hybrids to shorten the growing time for trees and enhance productivity. Is he satisfied with the work that MacMillan Bloedel is doing in his riding?

**Mr. Fulton:** Mr. Speaker, certainly some of the projects and programs that MacMillan Bloedel and other companies are involved in are good. However, the essential problem I see with corporations such as MacMillan Bloedel is that they are taking the lion's share of cash flow and available capital to Brazil, Indonesia and other areas of the world at a time when one can fly over the Queen Charlottes and see huge areas where there is no regeneration of any kind. What happens when one cuts some of the very ancient forests, which in some cases are 800 to 1,000 years old with trees 20 feet across the butt, is that when the level of precipitation is high the water level comes up and the small trees simply cannot get a good foothold until the stumps actually rot. This means that 40 years from now small seedlings begin to grow on the stumps of the forests cut down around the time of World War II when spruce was cut from the Queen Charlottes for small Mosquito bombers that Canadian airmen flew overseas.

It is a situation in which MacMillan Bloedel is doing something, but I suggest one would be hard pressed to find many knowledgeable foresters in British Columbia who believe that there is a single company in British Columbia which is doing what it should, which is to take a long-term approach to the forest lands which have been tenured to them not simply on behalf of our generation but of many generations to come.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Pierre Gimaiel (Lac-Saint-Jean):** Mr. Speaker, in my riding, the most important industry is the forest industry. In Quebec, and especially in the Saguenay, Lac-Saint-Jean, Abitibi, and Témiscamingue areas, the forest industry, including pulp and paper and sawmills, is the main source of income.

I am delighted that the Member for Kamlops-Shuswap (Mr. Riis) decided to present a motion dealing specifically with the forestry industry.

**An Hon. Member:** Too bad he could not stay in the House!

**Mr. Gimaiel:** It is too bad he could not stay in the House to hear the rest of the debate, including speeches by his own colleagues from British Columbia who spoke to the motion and asked questions, all of which is of considerable interest to them, to him and to all the people of the Province of British Columbia, which, I must admit, made a tremendous impression on me when I was there, especially the trees which are fantastic. I think this marvelous wood from British Columbia is one of our most beautiful resources, and one that is so often used in Canadian artifacts and in decorating our own homes, and as for the New Democratic Party, as I was saying, I am happy to note its interest in the forest industry.

I admit I am a little more surprised at the position taken by the Progressive Conservative Party, because I was told that this morning, the Progressive Conservative Party's House Leader did not seem to be interested in having the motion considered today. Furthermore it seems that yesterday, a motion on resources which was also presented by the Official Opposition got only three paragraphs on forestry resources, and the same Member who was responsible for those three short paragraphs on forestry came back today to speak again to the same subject, owing, I believe, to a definite lack of interest on the part of the Official Opposition with respect to the forest industry. I know that their new Leader comes from one of the mining regions of our country, which is quite all right, but this may have prevented him from being equally familiar with the forest industry, which is the largest industry in Canada, if we realize that \$20 billion are involved each year in this industry. I think the Official Opposition would do well to have some of its Members specialize in this area, and I know some of my colleagues who have been involved in the construction industry are already well aware of the importance of the forest industry for our country. I was rather surprised that yesterday, the Opposition did not give more consideration to the forest industry as a resource and that today, it preferred to delay the debate on this extremely important issue.

Personally, I shall, if I may, get back to what was said by the previous speaker, the Hon. Member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton) in British Columbia, when he referred to the \$48 million the Canadian Government was spending each year on the forest industry. The Hon. Member forgot a host of other Departments that are now involved in the forest industry. For instance, in the past two years, the Department of Employment and Immigration, especially under the provisions of Section 38, has been playing a major role in cleaning up our forests, collecting organic matter on the forest floor, planting trees, developing access roads, improving land and whatever else is involved around sawmills and pulp and paper mills, while we must not forget that for years, all on-site or on the job training in the forest industry has largely been paid, for periods of between six months and one year, by the federal Department of Employment and Immigration. These policies