

he told me that he would have been better off had he remained in Sweden, as his brothers did. He said, "I could have lived off my limit of timberland". He went on to explain how his brothers in Sweden had profited by operating in the national forests. Each farmer was allowed the revenue from so many acres of forest, but he worked under government supervision. He could not deplete the property; he had to re-plant. This policy had been so profitable that today the authorities were deriving a good revenue from their forests.

It is much to be regretted that some fifty years ago we did not adopt a policy of planning for the preservation of our forests. In the northern part of Saskatchewan there is a very large area ideally suited to the growth of timber, but good for no other purpose. No attempts were made to clear the land, as fire-guards, every six, or twenty, or one hundred miles. Consequently, fires have raged over hundreds of miles of that country. At one time there was a regulation in Saskatchewan to "limb tops and burn brush", but as far as I know it was never enforced, and when a fire occurred in that area, not only the slash and the trees but the very ground was burnt. If the coming of this bill means, even at this late date, that we are going to do something to preserve our forests, I am strongly in favour of it.

Hon. G. P. Burchill: I rise simply for the purpose of expressing my appreciation of this measure, and my thanks to the government for introducing it. I do so as a representative of the forest products industry. I can assure the honourable gentleman who introduced the legislation that the industry from one end of Canada to the other will receive it with the warmest possible approval and endorsement. One of the greatest difficulties we have encountered in our work, either as members of an industrial association, or of the Canadian Forestry Association—which, honourable members realize, has done a wonderful work educationally in bringing to the Canadian people a realization of the importance of supervising and preserving our forests—has been the conflict of authority between the provinces and the dominion, and the difficulty of getting the representatives of the two jurisdictions together for the purpose of pursuing a grand forestry supervision program, national in scope.

The introduction of the bill has made this a very happy day for me, for it means that we have made, at least, a start, and, I believe, a start in the right direction. In my judgment no measure of greater importance than this has been introduced in parliament during the present session. It is so important and far-reaching that I regret that it was found neces-

sary to delay it until this late date, for I know that many of us would have liked to have gone a little more deeply into its provisions. We cannot do anything about this now, except to say that we heartily approve of the measure and hope it will bring forth blessings for this land.

A large proportion of our population of every class is dependent upon our forests, and it is difficult to realize that Canada has lost more timber through fire and insect pests than has ever been cut by the axe during the long history of the lumbering industry of this nation. This should indicate something of the tremendous possibilities that can result from preserving our forest lands by the fighting of fires and the destroying of insect pests. Honourable senators, I want to say that I welcome this measure most heartily.

Hon. Mr. Reid: May I ask the honourable senator who sponsored this legislation (Hon. Mr. MacKinnon), if he knows whether the government intends to carry on any reforestation of dominion Crown lands under this Act? If so, has he any information as to whether the government will set up nurseries, or will co-operate in carrying out the work of provincial nurseries already in existence?

Hon. Mr. MacKinnon: I am not in a position to reply in detail to the question just asked by the honourable senator from New Westminster (Hon. Mr. Reid); but the measure will give authority to the dominion government to carry on a program of that nature. It will also empower the dominion government to co-operate with the provincial governments in carrying on this kind of work.

I was most thankful to hear the remarks of the honourable senator from Northumberland (Hon. Mr. Burchill), because it was in his province that I saw this work being done in a successful way.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the second time.

THIRD READING

Hon. Mr. Robertson moved the third reading of the bill.

The motion was agreed to and the bill was read the third time and passed.

LUMBER INDUSTRY OF THE MARITIMES

INQUIRY AND DISCUSSION

On the Order:

Resuming the adjourned debate on the inquiry of the Honourable Senator Burchill that he will call the attention of the Senate to the condition of the lumber industry in the Maritime Provinces and will inquire of the government if they are aware that a recent inquiry from the United Kingdom for 50,000