

Supply—Forestry

damage, or because the ministers or the deputy ministers do not go into the forest often enough to see for themselves this terrible havoc.

Nowadays, as far as pulpwood is concerned, they have got to a point where they cut that wood in 8 foot lengths to make what is normally called the end tod. Can you figure all the waste. To get some wood, they waste two thirds of the forest in order to get one third.

I draw this fact to the attention of the house because I know the minister is not aware of it. You smile, but that is because you are city dwellers. But we are now talking about forestry, a field about which you know nothing, you city people.

I am sure the minister will have constructive suggestions to make in that field because it is a national misdeed, from a forestry point of view.

If you go through a forest where the trees were cut down, you see there is nothing left because the spruce are cut down and then hauled out of the woods, pulling out all the young growth, so there is nothing left.

If something was done about it, if only a new seeding was done, but no, everything is left as it is, with the result that what is growing up now is only second, third and even fourth class wood, while really productive wood is choked under and finally dies among all that mess.

We might have a forest in seven, eight or ten years, but it will be a third class forest.

That is why I wanted to bring those conditions to the minister's attention and to denounce this misdeed. It has been denounced to the provincial government, but what is happening today?

Timber limits have been granted to all sorts of strangers to our economy. Foreign companies came here to get the raw product and went away with the best in our economy. That was all they were interested in.

Mr. Chairman, we have recently read in the press that the Catholic farmers' union in Quebec which means the Quebec farmers, was launching a campaign for the rehabilitation of our forests. There is a reason for this, because those people are responsible people. They want to reconquer our forest in order to put it back in operation, and take it away from those who were destroying and abandoning it.

As I say a forest is a crop. If nobody cares to make it reproduce itself, it will create wasteland, and that is what has been happening for the last 30 years, because forest operations have been made too easy in our district.

Indeed, Mr. Chairman, all kinds of rights were granted. People went into the woods without bothering about anything. Money was easy to earn and the crop easy to harvest. Workers left everything behind them, even their land, to go into the lumber industry. Today, we find our farming industry cut down by 50 per cent, while the forest has been destroyed forever in a proportion of 75 per cent. That is why we have to start again practically from scratch as regards forestry, as we have to start from 60 per cent in the agricultural field. Those are the benefits of industrialization in our area.

Mr. Chairman, I am not blaming only the large or small industries, but almost everybody and everything, and more particularly the lack of education. Indeed, what is most important is to educate each operator and each worker who would work at that crop.

In the past, the operations destroyed everything, with the blessing of the various governments, and today, the few dollars that were saved have been paid in taxes. As for the operators, they went back across the border with all our profits and our money.

Therefore, it is through education that we shall succeed in taking the first step which will enable us, first, to save our forests and then, indirectly, to assist our agriculture.

That is why we must have a joint federal-provincial forest policy, to help the provinces in all their forest research, as well as in the protection and development of our forests which, with agriculture, remain one of our two greatest natural resources.

Mr. Chairman, I do not wish to go on any further, but I wanted to make those two points in the presence of the minister.

I am sure that the Minister of Forestry will take due note of my remarks, because they are based on the limited experience I acquired both in forestry and in farming. The minister can be assured that I expressed my views most sincerely in order that my suggestions may benefit not only my area, but also my province and the whole country.

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Mr. Granger: Mr. Chairman, first of all I should like to congratulate the minister on the occasion of his first presentation of the estimates of his department. I welcome the opportunity to join briefly in this debate, because forestry is one of the great industries of the province from which I come and of the district I have the honour to represent. Grand Falls, in the southern part of my riding, has some great pulp and paper mills which have led to a high degree of industrialization in central Newfoundland. They have been directly responsible for the employment of many people and the production of products which