

*Forestry Department*

A marketing section should be created within the proposed department of forestry to aid the Department of Trade and Commerce in the merchandising of our woods products.

You will notice, Mr. Speaker, that the words "aid the Department of Trade and Commerce" are the key words. This is the correct approach. We have at the present time under the Department of Trade and Commerce 63 offices of trade commissioners located in 49 different countries. These provide the channels through which Canadian foreign trade promotion is conducted. The men in these offices are skilled and experienced in marketing procedures. They handle all phases of Canada's export trade.

The forest products division of the Department of Trade and Commerce is just like the engineering and equipment division, the minerals and metals division, and the agriculture and fisheries branches of that department. Each of these divisions and branches serves the purpose of guiding the work of the trade commissioners in the field. The Department of Trade and Commerce has close liaison with the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Fisheries and the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys. It will also maintain close and continual liaison with the new department of forestry, as it does with every department.

The new department of forestry obviously will be interested in marketing. It will provide the forest products division of the Department of Trade and Commerce with the advice it gets from industry. It will also channel advice from the forest products division of trade and commerce back to industry. The new department, I think, will provide the missing link in the flow of information on trade matters between the industry in Canada and its customers abroad. The officials of the new forestry department will be in constant touch with all branches of the industry, and now there will be a direct channel of communication both ways between industry and markets. Undoubtedly there has been this flow of information in the past, but now I believe that forestry, just like other departments, can have direct access to industry on a much wider scale. To transfer the forest products division of trade and commerce to the new department would mean losing a direct link with all the machinery of trade and commerce established all over the world.

I should like to say a word or two about fire protection. The provinces have done a great job in building up equipment and know-how in fighting fires, but there is still much to be done. Since 1929 the millions of acres of forest land burned in Canada have been significantly reduced year by year. Since 1948 this reduction in fire loss has levelled off, but

damage each year is still high both in the number of fires and in acreage destroyed. In 1958, a very bad year, nearly 5 million acres were burned. I should like to take the time of the house for a moment to read, in percentage form, the listed causes of these fires: smokers, 19.6 per cent; lightning, 19.1 per cent; camp fires, 15.7 per cent; railways 12.7 per cent; settlers, 10.2 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, not much can be done to stop lightning, but a great deal can be done to reduce the human element as a cause of fires. There is need of a positive program even more vigorous than those we have in effect today. The principle of this bill does allow for such a program. Also, there must be a searching re-examination of the techniques used in fighting fires.

I could suggest that one of the methods by which we could reduce fire losses would be to face up to the economic fact that each province establishes fire fighting machinery and administration that is able to cope with the average fires in an average year. As everyone knows, every six or seven years we have a disaster year. It seems only logical that there should be pools or reserves of forest fire fighting equipment and men stationed at strategic places across Canada who could be called upon by the provinces during one of these emergencies. There has been a good deal of thinking done on this subject, and I feel that a minister, with only forestry to look after, could take the time to work out the multitude of details that a co-operative scheme covering the ten provinces and the two territories would entail. It would require diplomacy; it would require great patience to work out these difficulties and bring forward a plan that would allow for the differences in provincial fire fighting organizations and yet have the asset of having trained reserves ready and available to go to work any time there was a fire emergency in any part of Canada. If fire losses were reduced by half, I think it would pay for such an operation. Certainly for such demand for wood products as we foresee in the future we will need to drastically reduce losses due to fire.

Mr. Speaker, I am not fully competent to deal in detail with the work of the forest biology division or section of the Department of Agriculture. The scientific research organizations of the Department of Agriculture are renowned not only in this country but in a much wider sphere. By bringing them into closer co-operation with the forestry branch of my department I think the scientific disciplines in the Department of Agriculture can be brought to bear more directly on the problems of forest diseases and pests. At the same time it will be very important for them

[Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle).]