

Supply—Forestry

Resources, and the British Columbia Research Council.

Mr. Chatterton: Is there no proposal to enlarge the facilities at the research laboratory in Victoria?

Mr. Sauv : Yes, there is such a proposal, but this year we shall not build, though we have a sum of money set aside for architects and engineers. There is no project for physical expansion in Victoria this year.

Mr. Chatterton: Is that because of the tight money situation?

Mr. Sauv : No; this is what the program calls for.

Mr. Herridge: Can the minister explain why the vote last year for publication of reports and other materials amounted to \$8,900 while this year it is only \$2,500?

Mr. Sauv : Can the hon. member give the page number?

Mr. Herridge: Page 166.

Mr. Sauv : When we organized the department on a national basis a certain number of regional facilities were left on a regional basis, and it is these to which the item refers. This explains why this particular vote is less than it was last year.

Mr. Barnett: I noted the remarks made by the minister about insect infestation on Vancouver Island, and that there had been a similar outbreak on the west coast of Newfoundland. Is this the infestation which has recently attacked the balsam fir? There was an item in the most recent bulletin published by the Council of Resource Ministers saying a ban had been placed on the shipment of balsam fir lumber from British Columbia as well as upon the export of live trees. Is the research program to which the minister referred related to this question?

After receiving that bulletin I wrote to the Minister of Lands, Forests and Waters of British Columbia to ask for some details. I was puzzled by a reference in the bulletin to 250 billion feet of balsam fir being threatened by this infestation. I did not think we had so much balsam fir in British Columbia. Was the research program designed to lift this ban on the use of our balsam fir?

Mr. Sauv : I do not think the program was designed in order to lift any restriction. It was originated in an effort to find a way of eliminating the balsam woolly aphid.

I knew that in certain regions of Vancouver island some restrictions had been imposed, but I was not aware the problem had reached the dimensions indicated by the hon. member. Are the figures correct? That figure of 250 billion seems to be extraordinarily large.

Mr. Barnett: I myself was puzzled by that reference. I wondered if it was a misprint.

Mr. Sauv : Did the figure come from my department?

Mr. Barnett: No; it was in a bulletin published by the secretariat of the Council of Resource Ministers in Montreal. It was a brief item and did not go into detail. I wrote to the appropriate minister in British Columbia asking him to send me more details particularly with reference to the volume of timber involved and the imposition of the embargo. Is the program to which the minister referred intended to deal with this particular infestation?

Mr. Sauv : This is a program to deal with the balsam woolly aphid. I read the bulletin to which the hon. member referred but I do not recall the figure he mentioned. I am afraid I cannot give the hon. member a precise answer. I shall have to find out whether there is any relation between what is contained in that announcement and the balsam woolly aphid. I read the bulletin program we are carrying out—a program limited to some parts of Vancouver island where this woolly aphid is presenting a serious problem.

Mr. Barnett: On another subject, could the minister give us a few more details about the item which can be found at page 164—grants in aid of forestry research, in an amount of \$90,000? Does this involve a program of grants toward the assistance of research at universities or similar institutes? Where is this research being done?

Mr. Sauv : This money is being spent on what we call extramural research—research in universities, research by individuals, and so on. This is for work done outside the various laboratories of the department. There are four forestry schools in Canada. The faculty of forestry, British Columbia, which is under the direction of Mr. Joseph Gardner, a past director of the research laboratory of the Department of Forestry in Vancouver, is receiving a grant under this item.