

not much for an industry that brings in, in revenue alone, almost \$80,000,000 a year, an industry that pays out in wages \$200,000,000, an industry that employs between 300,000 and 400,000, an industry that plays a more important part than any other except agriculture. It may be said that this comes under the provinces, in connection with civil and property rights. Well, one might just as well say the same about agriculture. We must realize that if we are to win the war and to win the peace that will follow we must have some practical and creative policies in our approach to a sound development of our great natural resources. Some would say, "Very well, we will handle all that through the state", but if we are to give employment to our people we must realize that we have a part in protecting, maintaining and preserving the great forest wealth of Canada that lies behind such employment.

I am not going to deal with many of the items on which the government might well spend money. The spruce bud-worm situation has been mentioned here. If the government were doing its duty toward our great natural resource it would have a larger vote directed toward the crucial years of the spruce bud-worm infestation, much larger than the amount mentioned here for all other laboratory purposes. I wish to mention only the general principle and the utter neglect which the government has shown toward this great industry not only in recent years but for many years. I am delighted to find that the leader of this party, Mr. John Bracken, who has studied the problems of this industry, as he has carefully studied the problems of other industries, made a speech not long ago in which he demonstrated his appreciation of the part our forest resources may play in post-war development. I urge the minister seriously not only to consider increasing this vote, but when he brings down his other estimates, not to talk about \$300,000, but to assume the responsibility that he should toward an industry that has been so long forgotten.

I realize that this item is not a large one. I am not criticizing it for its size; I am criticizing it because it is scanty and is an indication of the government's appreciation of the problem. In this dominion we have done practically nothing for the forest industry. The minister's department has spent more on the national parks of Canada alone than on the promotion of all the forest products of the country. When one stops to realize it, Mr. Chairman, one must think that if we have not awakened in peace times we should have awakened in war time, and for war purposes we should at least

be abreast of other nations who have been spending not in one year but for twenty years amounts that make us look like a backward nation. We are a nation that holds the key to the greatest forest resources development of any nation in the world. I urge the minister to reconsider, especially when he is bringing down his other estimates, increasing the vote in order to do the many things that are waiting to be done. I urge that he increase his other vote and give forestry its proper place in this country.

I may say here that after the next election—and it may not be long in coming; it is well indicated now—we shall have a keener appreciation of the forestry industry and we are likely to have a forestry department. In the meantime the minister who has had a long experience in the mines department, may at least take a leaf out of the constructive book of Mr. Bracken and show some progressive productivity.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Where is he?

Mr. ROWE: He is out studying the problems that hon. members who have just made that remark do not understand, and I am glad that we see the results of some of that study in a clear comprehension of the problems that confront this country.

Mr. CRERAR: The boundless optimism of my hon. friend as to what may happen in the next election certainly challenges one's admiration. He chides us for the smallness of this vote. He criticizes the government because of its parsimony in dealing with the problems of the forest wealth of this country, and he evinces a remarkably keen interest—

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): Newly discovered.

Mr. CRERAR: —a newly discovered interest in pushing forward the value of our timber assets. I do not know how recent the conversion of my hon. friend to that point of view has been, but if he will take the trouble to go back eight years, to the time when his party was in power, and compare the amounts that the Conservative party, as it then was, appropriated for work of this kind with the amounts that have been appropriated and expended since this government came into power, even under the stress of war years, he will find, I think, some food for thought.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): He knows that.

Mr. CRERAR: In the observations that he has made—