

Supply—Forestry

Resources were taken to form the Department of Forestry and the responsibility for it was given to a highly competent man who could be Minister of Finance and who could possibly settle the ideological conflict between the present Minister of Finance (Mr. Sharp) and his predecessor, the hon. member for Davenport (Mr. Gordon).

We have the hon. member for Quebec West (Mr. Marchand) who is shortly to be minister of manpower, a department made up in part of the Department of Labour. Here is another highly qualified member and, as a French Canadian, I am proud to proclaim it in this house.

Another member, the one for Drummond-Arthabaska (Mr. Pepin) is also most qualified.

In spite of this contribution from the province of Quebec which French Canadians have made to the federal administration, the present government is content to appoint these valuable men to mainly administrative duties instead of opening to them the important portfolios such as finance, trade and commerce and industry.

These are the opening remarks I am making very sincerely and dynamically, because if the present conflict between English and French Canada is to be settled, let us stop the pretty speeches and appoint French Canadians to important posts.

Now, about the Department of Forestry—

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Rinfret): Order. I just want to point out to the hon. member for Sherbrooke that the house listened of course with great interest to the remarks he made about French representation within the various federal departments, but I think it is my duty to remind him that we are now considering the estimates of the Department of Forestry and nothing else but the estimates of the Department of Forestry.

Mr. Allard: Mr. Chairman, I thank you for your kind words and especially for allowing me to express my opinion as a prelude to the few questions I wanted to put to the minister. In short, I would suggest that the representative for Îles-de-la-Madeleine be taken out of the forest and appointed to an important department, because he has all the necessary qualifications, just like the two other members I have mentioned.

I will only put two questions to the Minister of Forestry, because I have to catch a train in a few minutes. I listened carefully to his short speech and I know he can answer

those questions. He said that his department conducted a lot of scientific research in the field of forestry. I should like to know whether there are provincial scientific research services in the Canadian provinces? Are there such services in the ten Canadian provinces? Does the Department of Forestry of the province of Quebec have a scientific research service? What I am trying to find out is whether there is any co-ordination in the field of scientific research in forestry, in order precisely to obtain better results?

My second question is this: are those provincial scientific research services keeping in touch and working with the Department of Forestry in this field?

Mr. Ricard: Mr. Chairman, I do not know whether the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Allard) has any reforestation problem in his constituency but, after his laudatory remarks about the Minister of Forestry (Mr. Sauv ), I am sure he does not have to worry about it.

Like the hon. member who spoke before me, I am very pleased with the success obtained in the house by the Minister of Forestry, and I think a large part of the minister's success is due to the fact that he is in an interesting position. He heads a department created by the former Conservative government. He is responsible for the administration of ARDA and will introduce the bill concerning feed grain. Finally, he has the responsibility of carrying on the work so ably started under the former Conservative government.

No doubt that influenced greatly the results obtained so far. I hope he will not change, because he has a very human and open way of dealing with problems and he undoubtedly enjoys the co-operation and good will of all those he works with.

The forest is one of our main industries. It is, so to speak, the basic industry which, for many years, complemented farming. That proves the importance of paying a lot of attention to the forests, to protect our forests which are a great source of income.

All necessary precautions should be taken to protect them as much as possible. In his speech, the minister mentioned that his department's jurisdiction was very limited and that it just had to deal with the various provincial departments.

I know that there is always room for discussion and an exchange of views there, but I know that with his well-known tact and