

*Forestry Department*

There remain, however, a number of important subjects in which a federal department of forestry will be of great assistance and with regard to which the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Trade and Commerce will furnish competent and experienced men to help to staff the new department.

I should like to mention a few subjects as they have occurred to me.

1. More intense research into the uses of saw mill waste, particularly in so far as small saw mills are concerned.

2. The establishment of forest nurseries at all federal experimental farms and stations across Canada in order to make available suitable plants and stock to farmers and other people by which to improve their wood lots.

3. Financial assistance to forestry associations in order that the associations may step up the work of educating the public in forest conservation in all its aspects. At the present time I believe the department makes an annual grant of \$20,000 a year to the Canadian Forestry Association. I suggest that when the new department is set up the grant might possibly be trebled.

4. Assistance to the provinces in the elimination of disease and harmful insects in the forests.

5. The setting up of an export branch to deal with sales promotion of forest products in other countries. I know that the bill does not necessarily imply that this will be done but I offer this as a sound suggestion not so much for the papermakers as for the lumbermen who have been experiencing a hard time in finding suitable export markets for their lumber in recent years.

6. The giving of careful study to existing railway rates on forest products and the correcting of the many inequalities that exist today. There are many inequalities. If the hon. member for Villeneuve were here I am sure he could point to certain small saw mills in his constituency that are having a very difficult time in reaching any market in which they can sell their lumber. This is due to high railway freight rates and the inability to compete by truck haul because the distances are too great.

These are just a few of the subjects that come to my mind, and I am sure that other hon. members will introduce a great many valuable suggestions before the debate ends. I am happy to have had the opportunity today to express my views on this important subject, and I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and all members of the house for your kind attention.

**Mr. H. M. Batten (Humber-St. George's):**

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the principle of the bill and I do so for two particular reasons. The first is that I come from the province of Newfoundland where the newsprint industry is of fundamental importance and also from a constituency where the newsprint industry is of equal importance. My second reason for supporting the measure is that it is my private opinion that if the industry is going to meet the demands which may be made upon it in the next 15, 20 or 25 years it will be in need of research facilities which only the federal government is able to provide.

I was interested in the remarks of the hon. member for Compton-Frontenac (Mr. Stearns) who has just taken his seat. He made some reference to his own province of Quebec. In considering such a measure as is now before us, one which could never hope to do that which it proposes to do without the co-operation of the provinces and the industry in general, I think it may be or should be permissible for one to be able to refer to the industry in the province from which he comes. The remarks which the hon. member made regarding his own province were particularly interesting. I also think that his remarks with reference to the hon. member for Laurier (Mr. Chevrier) are substantially correct. When the hon. member spoke on the resolution stage he did not then have the bill before him, but I know that if he were to speak at this stage of the debate he would, having seen the bill, take the same position that I am taking now and support the bill.

I believe that when the bill is implemented it will do a great deal for all branches of the forest industry in all parts of Canada. Nearly all who have spoken on the bill have said a great deal about the importance of the forest industries to Canada. Probably that is one of the real reasons why the bill is presented to parliament now. I think the importance of any industry to Canada should not be rated only on its national importance but should be based upon its importance in the area in which it operates. In the case of the forest industry, whether lumbering or pulp and paper, the industry is not only important to nearly all of the provinces of Canada as provinces but is very important from a national standpoint. In fact, it is one of our basic industries. It is most important in our national economy and in the economy of nearly all our provinces.

This industry has been made possible by the large extent of forests in Canada, exceeded in size only by those of the U.S.S.R. and Brazil. We have in Canada 1.6 million square miles of forest area. One million