

There is no question whatever of any invasion of provincial rights or jurisdiction being involved in this proposed legislation. In essence, this bill forms a basis for joint action by the dominion and the provinces in the forestry field. The measure is purely permissive in nature, and contains no one-sided power of expropriation. Under this bill it is not intended that any forest experimental area or national forest shall be established contrary to the wishes of a province. As a matter of policy, the concurrence of the province concerned will first be obtained. It was while I was Minister of Mines and Resources that government authorities in all the provinces were given an opportunity to carefully study our proposals. Far from raising any objection to this federal plan, the provinces generally voiced whole-hearted and unanimous approval.

With the increasing need for maintaining and developing our forest resources, it has become apparent that the existing Dominion Forest Reserves and Parks Act no longer has any application. It fails therefore, to serve as a proper medium for carrying out the policy and responsibilities of the federal government in forestry matters.

The measure now submitted brings the statutory authority up to date and in line with present-day requirements. It provides a proper framework for building a national forestry policy, which is badly needed. Above all, it is designed to promote working co-operation in this field and between the provinces, the forestry industry and the dominion. It provides the foundation for effective national action when such action is necessary and desirable.

I cannot speak too highly of the work and personnel of the Dominion Forest Service, which operates research laboratories in Ottawa and Vancouver, and participates with private industry in operating a pulp and paper research laboratory in Montreal. It also operates forest experimental stations in five provinces. It has gathered forestry information of great benefit to the provinces and the industry and, of course, to the federal government. New techniques and equipment have been developed. The Dominion Forest Service is, in fact, making a permanent contribution to Canadian prosperity. Under this bill its opportunities for service will definitely be widened, with a corresponding benefit to Canada as a whole.

Whether for the purpose of watershed protection, tourist attraction, fish and game conservation or forest products wealth, Canada's forests are among her most important possessions. Few industries can do without wood products.

In Alberta, my home province, the irrigation farmer is vitally concerned in the protection of mountain forests, as they slow down and distribute evenly the annual run-off from melting snow and glaciers. Actually, forests on the east slope of the Rockies govern the flow of virtually every river watering the western plains. It is essential in the interests of national well-being that the forests of this country be developed, so that their yield will be continuous and sufficiently abundant, to meet not only the internal needs of Canada but the requirements of our foreign trade. We need to exercise care and wise judgment in protecting this great primary resource, and in organizing the production and harvesting of our timber wealth. This is a task which requires large expenditures of time, money and skill, but we could not make a better investment in the future of this nation.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. R. B. Horner:** Honourable senators, I welcome this proposed legislation, even at this late date, when it is like shutting the stable door after the horse has been stolen.

Some time ago I gave some facts about Canada's advancement as a nation. One thing I forgot to mention was the wastefulness shown by the federal government in its control of natural resources. Northern Saskatchewan has not today anything like the stand of spruce timber it once had. This natural resource was largely wasted or given away by the federal government before it came under provincial jurisdiction. There was no regulation as to the size of trees which could or could not be cut, with the result that many millions of feet of lumber were removed from that area and some people in Milwaukee became millionaires. Railroads were built to serve the big operators, and one of these railroads ran to Big River, where a huge saw-mill was put up. The huge stands were appropriated; the smaller ones were left scattered here and there. That is how the operators conducted their business before the era of control of our natural resources.

Contrast this with the practice in Sweden, Denmark and Germany. In those countries they have, and have had for from fifty to seventy years, planned systems for the conservation of their forests. Every Swede I have talked to has been horrified at the lack in Canada of any policy of reforestation. As I understand the Swedish rule, if one tree is cut, two trees must be planted; and cutting must take place within six inches of the ground. But within a few miles of the city of Ottawa you can find huge stumps, the best part of the tree, standing three or four feet high. I talked to one Swede who has been quite successful in Saskatchewan, and