

Forestry Department

forward in the hope that it may be a method of allaying any fears that have been expressed by those who think that provincial jurisdictions are going to be transgressed.

Second, we urge immediate expansion of forest products research, particularly with a view in the first instance to improving the efficiency of the 8,000 small lumber operators in Canada with respect to manufacturing procedures and utilization. I made these notes yesterday before I heard the minister's introductory remarks this afternoon and, as I said before, I must say that we in this group are very pleased to note that the government intends to spend twice as much on research as previously.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): I wonder whether I might ask permission to make a correction in the hon. member's remarks. He has said twice now that we are going to double expenditures on forestry research. I think I was very careful to say that we are going to double our efforts over five years. It is calculated that we can double our efforts by an increase in expenditure of about 44 per cent. Therefore we are not doubling the expenditures but doubling the amount of work which will cost about 44 per cent more.

Mr. Herridge: I am very glad the minister has corrected me. I apologize for misquoting him. I thought I heard him say that the government was going to double the expenditures. I am a little disappointed to hear that they are not but in the meantime we have to be satisfied with the government's intention to double the efforts. We in this group still urge a doubling of the expenditures. We are of the opinion that with the establishment of a new department and having in mind the attitude of the industry throughout Canada and, shall I say, a greater realization on the part of the government of what this industry means to Canada, within a year or two we will be doubling the expenditure on research in connection with the forest industry.

My third proposal is an expansion of forest management research with the immediate objective of assisting and guiding the growing number of small tree farmers in Canada. In this connection I am very pleased to note that the government, according to the bill, may enter into agreements with any province or with any person. This indicates clearly to me that there is an opportunity there to assist very small lumber operations on a personal basis or tree farmers under certain circumstances as persons so far as research is concerned. I am quite sure this will be one of the most interesting aspects of the services rendered by the department when it begins to function.

Fourth, in our opinion the public relations and educational activities must be honed to a keener edge than they have been in the past and must keep in tune with advances in the science of forestry and developing public interest. In our opinion those responsible for public relations must, in the first instance, support and preach principles and, second, present facts, with skill and in an interesting and effective manner. I was very pleased to hear the minister's remarks with respect to the extension services. I was also very pleased to hear him indicate that this is to be one of the particular functions of the minister at the head of the department. I think an imaginative, active minister can do a great deal to inculcate an understanding of the value of the forest industry and the work of this department in his public relations and educational activities. I was very pleased to hear the minister mention that when he was speaking.

Fifth, I suggest it would be most appropriate to include the water resources branch and the wildlife branch in the new department of forestry. I am not suggesting that this be done immediately. There was some criticism from members of the official opposition that it was not necessary to have a separate ministerial head of the department. We take a different view. We believe that we could very easily do away with the Solicitor General (Mr. Balcer) and give his meagre functions—

Mr. Argue: Do away with the portfolio.

Mr. Herridge: Yes, pardon me; I am very sorry, I am not a man of murderous intent. I would not want to do away with the Solicitor General but, more correctly, I think we should do away with the portfolio and transfer the duties to the Minister of Justice (Mr. Fulton). It might also be quite possible to provide the Secretary of State with some further responsibilities and activities. In the opinion of this group this industry certainly deserves a full time minister at the head of the department. Having in mind the immense contribution made by the industry to the exchequer of this country and its value to the people as a whole, we are wholeheartedly behind a separate minister in charge of the department. This group does not advocate unnecessary expenditures. We like to scrutinize public expenditure, but in this case we believe it would be a very sound investment.

We believe it would be wise to give consideration to including within the forestry department the water resources branch. If we did that we might get hydro planning with some of human feelings attached to it. We also think the wildlife branch should be