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# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 52/31 THE SIXTH BRITISH COMMONWEALTH FORESTRY CONFERENCE

Speeches delivered by the Minister of Resources and Development, Mr. R.H. Winters, and the Deputy Minister of Resources and Development, Major-General H.A. Young, at the Sixth British Commonwealth Forestry Conference, Ottawa, August 11, 1952.

... Since the end of the Second World War, there has been a tremendous and world-wide increase of interest in the relationship between available natural resources and human welfare. Improved, though as yet imperfect, estimates have been made of the extent of those resources, on which the existence and material well-being of all peoples ultimately depend. These resources, though vast, are not unlimited, and considerable apprehension has been expressed by some that they may not continue to prove adequate to supply the needs of a rapidly increasing world population.

Science backed up by good sound common sense, however, can alleviate fears that irretrievable disaster lies just around the corner. Science may be unable to increase the total area of the world's potentially productive land; but science can do a great deal to increase land productivity whether of food or of timber. It's for this reason that the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies are making great efforts to place scientific knowledge at the disposal of the less fortunate and less highly developed countries who urgently need to improve the utilization of their natural resources. The Commonwealth's own Colombo Plan is doing somewhat the same thing. It is important to note that the appeals for help in forestry occupy a very prominent place among the requests for technical assistance. This is a clear indication of the growing awareness of the importance of our forests and the need to protect them.

Clearly, there is a rapidly growing recognition, throughout the world, that uncontrolled forest exploitation, often resulting in devastation, must be replaced as quickly as possible by sound forest management based on the principles of conservation and sustained yield. This follows the lead given by the First British Empire Forestry Conference, which was convened in England in 1920. There, for the first time, practical recognition was given to the fact that interchange of knowledge and experience between the forest authorities of different countries was likely to be mutually beneficial. That meeting, and those held subsequently in Canada, Australia, South Africa, and again in England, have, I believe confirmed the hopes of their sponsors. I am sure that this, the Sixth Conference, will provide further evidence that co-operation in the field of forestry science, even between countries whose physical and other conditions differ widely, is profitable to all concerned.