

J. D. Hazen, M.P.P., leader of the opposition, made an eloquent address joining with the premier in extending a welcome. He regarded the meeting as one of much importance to the province. Every great interest now met to discuss the questions of the day, and though in this province other interests had met, this was the first time that the greatest of all the industries had been considered in convention. This was perhaps natural as in former times the people thought more of destroying the forest in the interest of farming. But the time had come now when protection and preservation were necessary and that all should combine together towards this end. One of the greatest enemies of the forest was the forest fire and the greatest necessity was to guard against this. Mr. Hazen pointed out the great value the crown lands were to the province. It possessed over six million acres of lands.

Hon. A. R. McClelan, ex-lieutenant governor, read a short paper on forestry, which he had prepared at the request of the premier. He thought if the right of the eminent domain had been applied to this province fifty years ago that the province would be much better off today. He was glad to note that great progress was being made throughout Canada and the United States along the lines of forestry preservation. He also made reference to the great importance attached to the lumber trade by some of the countries of Europe, and of the rapid growth of the pulp and paper industry. He spoke of what was being done in Japan and Germany in preservation. Mr. McClelan thought in the way of forest culture and forests if the surveyor personally owned the crown lands of the province it would be safe to say that he would not destroy it for the sake of large immediate profit, but would protect and foster it for the sake of his children and others.

He advocated a course of study in all the schools that would familiarize pupils with tree culture and its importance to the country. Much has been heard of our great western heritage. But here in New Brunswick we have a heritage that probably has no superior on the face of God's earth.

Elihu Stewart of Ottawa, president of the Canadian Forestry Convention, was the next speaker. In all parts of the country he was pleased to note a general awakening of the people in the direction of forest preservation. Evaporation, transportation of vapor and condensation were factors in the life of the forest which were provided by nature. The soil of the forest continually fertilized as it were, by the moisture of the air and drying leaves, regenerating itself. All that nature asked was that man should not interfere with her methods. The preservation of the forest was a necessity for the continuous supply of water.