

Resources Entail Privileges and Responsibilities

There is another important feature about our resources. This is the fact that they are complementary to the resources of the United States. As a result of our forest wealth Canada is the biggest supplier of United States newsprint. Our mineral wealth has enabled us to supply important quantities of base metals to the United States. With the development of iron ore deposits, Canada is likely to become the major foreign source of iron ores for the United States. Canadian resources and the resourcefulness of her people, added to the wealth and genius of the American people, place the North American continent in a singularly fortunate position in the twentieth century.

Resources and skill were never more needed than in these days when one way of life is being challenged by another way of life. And around the challenger and the challenged there live hundreds of millions of other people who watch with hungry and wistful eyes the struggle for survival. To them - and I am referring to the many undeveloped countries where the standard of living is only a fraction of that on the North American continent - it is not victory of one or the other that matters. What these people want is a chance to do better, to use their own resources more effectively and get some help in doing something about it now.

Those of us who are on the side of the challenged realize that the improvement of the world standard of living is a highly desirable goal - one that all broad minded and freedom-loving nations will want to strive for. But we also know that this goal can only be achieved in a world at peace. Thus preparedness, both military and economic, goes hand in hand with trying to improve our own lot and that of our fellow men.

Now I implied earlier that the tremendous resources available on the North American continent entail both privileges and responsibilities.

By privileges I mean the opportunity of making use of the resources for our own good. The fact that the standard of living on the North American continent is the highest in the world is ample proof that Americans and Canadians alike know a good thing when they see it.

By responsibilities I have three things in mind. First, resources are not inexhaustible. Some are renewable, like forests, but others are not renewable, like mineral wealth. Unless waste is reduced, conservation is practised, and new development is encouraged, we are misusing the heritage that is ours. Anyone who has seen thousands of acres of forest go up in smoke, communities hard hit by rampaging waters, and dust storms play havoc with fertile fields, will know what I mean. I am glad to report that increasing attention by national governments is being paid to this problem and encouraging results have already been achieved in both the United States and Canada.

Secondly, resources used solely for war would hasten the end of civilization. Under present conditions resources used solely for peacetime pursuits would invite war. There is then need for a balanced use of resources, and to work for a happy and fuller life and be prepared and equipped to defend it when challenged. The very fact of being prepared