

But that attachment to the past does not prevent Canada from being a new country, its people from being a young people, open to new ideas, to new experiments, new techniques in dealing with material things and in the application of new discoveries in the use and control of the forces of nature as well as in the practical application of the fundamental law of human relationships, "Love thy neighbour as thyself". ...

Canada is one of the few countries in the world today where human enterprise can stage great new dramas of human activity on scales comparable to those which were performed during the last century in the lands just south of our own frontiers.

But, in order that such gigantic plays may unfold their courses with appropriate effect and splendor, we must be careful that we do not spoil the setting. We must, of course, work for peace in the world; we must work for trade throughout the world, but we must also husband the strength of our people, the stability of our institutions and the wealth of our resources.

Now by 'the strength of our people' I mean that of their bodies, of their hearts and of their minds; and, by 'the stability of our institutions', I mean social and economic, as well as political stability; and, by 'husbanding the wealth of our resources', I do not mean that we should allow them to remain buried and idle like the talent of the unfaithful servant, but that we should use them wisely and in such manner that, instead of depleting them to the cost of the generations that will come after us, we will have increased their productivity in proper proportion to the increases in our population.

You know, I do not think we are doing too badly in that respect at the present time. Late last summer I went up to the Lake St. John district in my own home province of Quebec. I saw a plant up there which is putting aluminum metal on the world markets at the rate of '150 million dollars' worth a year and the only Canadian elements that go into that commodity are Canadian labour and electricity developed from the running water of Canadian streams.

Shortly afterwards I went out to Trail in British Columbia. You will remember that about 25 years ago the smelting company out there was subjected to a very substantial claim from the farmers of the adjoining state of Washington for the damages caused to the vegetation of their district by the obnoxious fumes from its tall chimneys. Well, there are no scars to remind one that there ever was any damage to the vegetation in that area. Things grow out there and they grow fast. The company paid the damages assessed by an international tribunal and, since then, has been applying these obnoxious fumes to the treatment of phosphate rock brought in from the state of Montana and the combination of the phosphate rock and the obnoxious fumes has become a fertilizer of which 25 million dollars' worth each year is marketed by the company. And under normal conditions each ton of that fertilizer means twelve additional tons of field crops.