

POPLAR CONFERENCE

The native poplars of Canada and the contributions these tree species can make to the forest economy will be the subjects of discussion at a Canadian Poplar Symposium, sponsored by the Forestry Branch, Department of Forestry and Rural Development, held from February 21 to 23 at Harrison Hot Springs, British Columbia. The Symposium is expected to attract forestry experts of government, industry, trade associations, and universities from across Canada.

Mr. A. Bickerstaff, Forestry Branch silviculture programme co-ordinator, explained that "the meetings will explore what is known about poplars in Canada - their characteristics, management practices, utilization, supply and demand - as a basis for further action to improve the contribution of poplar to the national economy".

The symposium will hear papers by several experts in their areas of specialization and will include workshop discussions and field trips to poplar plantations and natural stands.

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CANADA'S ECONOMY IN 1967

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extreme form, each province would ask for an accounting of the revenues it contributes to Canada, and the expenditures Canada makes within its borders. If the two didn't balance, Ottawa would be condemned - which means that Canada would be condemned. For the ultimate logic of this position is that each of us should pay into public treasuries only the amount that we receive in the form of services - in education, health services, transportation services, and the rest. If this is all that Canada or British Columbia means to us, we would scarcely need governments at all - we could simply buy the services on the open market.

It is similarly unwise to take this accounting approach to great national projects. If each province had insisted on the same number of miles of railroad *per capita*, the country would never have been joined together. Certainly British Columbia wouldn't be part of Canada. Over time we all benefit from the economic growth and prosperity which flows from the great Columbia River project, from the Pine Point railroad, from the South Saskatchewan River Dam, from the nuclear plants in Ontario, from Expo in Montreal, from the causeway to Prince Edward

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Island, and from the regional development which the Atlantic Development Fund is financing...

The essence of Canadian unity is caring about what happens to other Canadians and to other parts of Canada, and of believing that together we can do great things in the future, as we have in the past.

That is why in the field of economic policy we have attempted to find policies of benefit to both primary producers and producers of manufactured goods. Our policies for high and stable levels of employment have been for the general benefit of Canada, but we have constantly adapted them to special regional needs and in particular to stimulate the areas of slower growth.

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CO-OPERATION

We have programmes that equalize opportunity across Canada - the Canada Student Loans Plan, for example, and the new arrangements under which the Federal Government will contribute to the provinces 50 per cent of the operating costs of post-secondary education. There is the new adult-training programme which will provide assistance for the re-training of those workers who find they need new skills as technology changes and thereby increase their mobility. We have programmes to guarantee incomes to individuals wherever they live, such as the Unemployment Insurance Plan, the Canada and Quebec Pension Plans, and the Old Age Security Plan. Under the Canada Assistance Plan, financed jointly by the federal and provincial governments, social assistance is provided to others in the community who are in need. The federal and provincial governments co-operate in providing hospital-insurance programmes. Soon the medical care plan will be in operation to provide readier access to health services. Most important of all are the financial arrangements which ensure that the less-favoured provinces are able to provide minimum services to their populations by equalizing their provincial revenues to the national average...

These achievements of the past, and of the present, form the bonds of nationhood, the future of our country lies in the forging of new bonds - in striving to make Canada a better place and an exciting place for all Canadians regardless of where they live and what language they speak. In the meantime, we will, no doubt, go on psychoanalyzing ourselves and debating the issues and, indeed, the divisions of the day. But so long as we listen to the common-sense view of nationhood, that it is a family of peoples living together and working together for common purposes and caring about one another, we have every reason to be confident of the future of Canada.