

which will eventually be established in those territories. The federal responsibility is identical with the provincial responsibilities within their legislative jurisdiction.

These, then, are the two "national" and "provincial" interests which will affect the Federal Government's attitudes in the course of the National Conservation Conference. My colleagues and I hope that a free and full exchange of views through the means of the proposed National Conservation Conference will benefit Canada in all its constituent parts and the several governments responsible for the nation's material well-being.

Apart from such responsibilities, it has, moreover, seemed to us that it is of the greatest possible importance that the great questions that relate to the use of these resources should be examined by all interested agencies - sitting down together and discussing them from the point of view of the nation as a whole. They are too important for us to run the risks of inadequate or possibly conflicting lines of action or to incur the possibility that we may, by failure to look at these questions together, leave gaps and omissions in our administrations that may injure the prospects of this great country - or may diminish the patrimony of the people who come after us.

It is for these reasons - because of our common interest and of our common responsibility both to Canadians of today and to Canadians of the future - that we who are representing the Federal Government here today are particularly glad to have the representatives of the provinces sitting with us again to discuss these questions.

Perhaps I should briefly review the background of the proposal that a National Conference on Conservation should be called.

We are all, I think, well aware of the way in which the population of the world and the population of this country are steadily increasing. Along with this growth of population we have at the same time a progressive effort to raise the living standards of many of the countries of the world that have not thus far enjoyed our own standards. Combined with this is a steady growth in industrialization and its concomitant demands for the sources of power and for resources of all types. These growths are the indication of the demands that there will be in future years for the resources that this country contains. The growth in our own population is the measure of the more immediate increase that there will be in pressure upon all the resources that are close at hand - particularly those in the renewable field. These are the pressures that we have to think about - and prepare for.