



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
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No. 54/29 CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN CANADA

An address by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. C.D. Howe, made at the Conservation Conference of the Canadian Forestry Association, at Ottawa, April 23, 1954.

It is indeed an honour to be invited to speak to you on the final evening of this conference, for few subjects are as significant to the welfare, present and future, of our nation as conservation.

First of all, I wish to congratulate the executives of the five sponsoring organizations for their initiative in calling this conference. You have done a great service to your fellow citizens. I should also like to congratulate all of you from all the organizations represented here for the active interest in conservation indicated by your presence in Ottawa this week.

The last meeting of a similar kind took place here in 1906 under the sponsorship of the Canadian Forestry Association. It was addressed by the Governor-General, the Rt. Hon. Earl Grey, the Prime Minister, Sir Wilfrid Laurier who was President of the Association at that time, and the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Robert L. Borden.

Sir Wilfrid and his associates in the Canadian Forestry Association called the last conference on conservation nearly half a century ago to draw the attention of the Canadian public to the need for a sensible exploitation of our renewable natural resources. In his speech of welcome, he drew attention particularly to the need for adequate fire protection and for reforestation. After suggesting that one way to ensure sufficient trees in the future was to scatter seeds on the newly-cut areas, he continued:

"It is a natural thought that we shall not live to see this young generation of trees at their full growth; but, as has been stated a moment ago by His Excellency the Governor-General, we must not think alone of ourselves, we must think of the prosperity of Canada in the days when all of us shall be sleeping in our graves".

It is fitting that we should tonight pay tribute to those far-sighted Canadians who were thinking of our welfare and of the welfare of those who will come after us. Let us resolve to follow the fine example of citizenship and patriotism set by them.