

# Extracts from the Proceedings of the Canadian Forestry Convention

Address of the President

THE RIGHT HONORABLE SIR WILFRID LAURIER

At Ottawa, January 10th, 1906

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,—In the name of the Canadian Forestry Association, which has conceived and planned this conference, and in the name of the Canadian Parliament which has authorized and approved of it, it is my privilege and my pleasure to extend to you all a most hearty greeting. Welcome to one; welcome to all. Especially should I welcome, even after the words of His Excellency the Governor General, the representatives of the American Republic who are present with us on this occasion, and who bring to us the benefit of their knowledge and experience. Welcome also to the representatives of the provincial governments without whose aid and co-operation our efforts could never have the full fruition which we anticipate from them. Welcome also to the representatives of the great railway companies which are placed in a position to give, perhaps, more than any other class of the community, the benefit of their experience and knowledge to us. Welcome also to the representatives of the great lumbering class, who, perhaps, are more interested than any other class of the community in the maintenance, preservation and protection of the forests. Welcome to the university men whom we see before us, welcome to the traders, welcome to the sportsmen, welcome to all classes who are present, and who are ready to contribute of their time and of their money to the great object we have in view, and which is an object of primary national importance. The large attendance which I see before me, I am most gratified to say, exceeds all the expectations that we had, and this attendance, large as it is, is a manifest evidence that the Canadian people at last—at long last, realize the great importance of all problems connected with forestry.

A great deal of harm has already been done, harm, which, I am afraid, in many respects cannot be recalled, but it is not yet too late, and the harm which we know has taken place is and ought to be an incentive to us to do our best in the endeavour to check it and to give more attention to forestry problems. Our ancestors, when they