

*Canadian Centennial*

conference on March 8, 9 and 10, 1954. He is reported to have said:

We must work as a team. We shall have to make mutual adjustments to develop mutual strength. We may well have to compromise on practical details in order to establish more firmly our hold on basic principles.

It is an excellent thing that we, who have so many different responsibilities, can meet here to discuss our varied problems in this friendly atmosphere. Each of us aims at the best development of the resources in his own field, and at the same time is prepared to listen to the views of workers in other fields, to examine methods of co-operation, to compromise if necessary, and to work always for the general good and not for sectional advantage.

It is of particularly happy augury that this is, once again, an international conference. In this great central city, we have come together from Mexico and Canada as well as from all quarters of the United States of America for a neighbourly discussion of problems which are not limited by man-made boundaries. Speaking as a Canadian, I deeply appreciate the friendly co-operative spirit of which this gathering is symbolic. I am proud and happy to be able to reaffirm Canada's desire to continue to work with her sister nations of the North American continent for our common welfare and prosperity.

This is a conference dealing with natural resources. We can meet with other nations. The minister and senior officials can attend conferences of that sort and work out programs to the advantage of us all. Yet when something is suggested that will result in a conference of federal-provincial governments we allow provincial objections, on occasion, to limit our actions in this respect.

Then again, in 1955, at the 20th North American wild life conference on March 14, 15 and 16, 1955, the former minister of northern affairs and national resources had this to say:

Friendly co-operation is, indeed, the keynote of relations between the United States and Canada in all wildlife matters. This conference itself is one illustration of that. In the field, the annual joint survey of breeding waterfowl is perhaps the world's greatest example of regularly repeated scientific teamwork by a large number of experts of two countries.

We want that scientific teamwork to be organized, yet a committee such as this, dealing with our natural resources, between the federal and provincial governments is objected to by some people. In addition to that, Dr. Trueman, the national film commissioner, and other officials attend these conferences on behalf of the federal government. The federal government sends representatives every year to the B.C. natural resources conference. The government calls a dominion-provincial agricultural conference; it calls dominion-provincial conferences on fiscal and taxation matters; dominion-provincial conferences on health insurance, and finally we have the former government recognizing the need for consideration of conservation of

our land and water resources by the establishment last session of a Senate committee. This committee is continuing this session its very interesting study of land use in Canada and carrying out that study with commendable vigour.

In a multitude of activities the government has recognized the need for dominion-provincial conferences and co-operation. Regardless of precedent and practice, the need for a dominion-provincial conference to establish principles of conservation, somewhat along the lines suggested by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, goes unrecognized and repeated requests for the same in and outside our parliament are denied. For years this conference has been requested by numerous organizations who recognize its urgency and importance. Such a conference has been requested by the agricultural institute of Canada; the Canadian forestry association and others. I might give a summary of the forestry objectives presented at the resources conference, Ottawa, Friday, April 23, 1954.

The recommendations of the conference may be summarized briefly as follows:

1. That a national forest policy be developed and adequate provision made to implement it.

This can only be achieved as a result of co-operation with the provinces. The Canadian Federation of Agriculture, December 3, 1956, passed the following resolution:

Several times in recent years the C.F.A. has asked that a national conservation policy and program be instituted in this country. In its submission to the royal commission on Canada's economic prospects it said:

"Another matter of great importance to the future of this country is the planned use and conservation of its agricultural resources. At the present time the prairie farm rehabilitation and marshland rehabilitation programs are doing some excellent work along these lines. What is very badly needed is a comprehensive land use classification, and a national program of soil and water conservation and development that would cover all the agricultural area of Canada. Families which are trying to farm land which is declared sub-marginal for farming should be assisted to retire from farming or else be re-located in better farming areas.

If the government would only accept the principle of the resolution moved by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre—I am not saying move exactly in the direction of the resolution, but accept the principle, purpose and spirit—when it came time to celebrate the 100th anniversary of confederation we would have a rich and very worthwhile target. Provincial organizations have urged this means. Local organizations still hope for action. Editorials in newspapers and periodicals all across this country emphasize the necessity for action along the lines I have suggested. The need is urgent. The demand