

Dominion Parks Branch, one of the many branches of Mr. Meighen's department, it is fitting that Mr. Meighen should be with us and say a few words of welcome to those present.

HON. ARTHUR MEIGHEN (Minister of the Interior): It is a rather unpretentious and, for that very reason, appropriate, introduction that Senator Edwards has given me in asking me to address you. I really have nothing in the way of an address to give, other than to say a few words to welcome the delegates to this conference.

We, in Canada, are now under the shadow of a very great loss. A light has gone out from our midst, a very pure and flaming light. Throughout the four corners of our Dominion we feel the sense of something gone. I was taught almost at my mother's knee to set my mind and my life, so far as its public activities were concerned, against what Sir Wilfrid Laurier represented in this Dominion. It was not until well on toward middle life that I came in contact with him personally, but I soon found, as many thousands have found, that the predilections of earlier years had no justification, so far as his personal character was concerned. All in the nature of personal animosity melted in his presence, and one could scarcely resist the aspiration to become his friend. In the history of our country there are recorded many bitter political animosities, and it is not the least pronounced tribute to the worth of a man that he survived fifty years of political conflict and goes to his grave with the love and affection of vast multitudes of our people, and with the personal regard of all.

I notice that we are to be favoured here with addresses on most appropriate subjects by distinguished men of the United States. It is worth noting in this connection that the great man who has just passed away in Canada was similar in one respect to the distinguished American, Theodore Roosevelt, who recently departed life over there. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, like Theodore Roosevelt, struggled in earlier years against a most unfortunate and menacing handicap. He travelled during ten years of his life on a very narrow isthmus between life and death, and only by the supreme power of will and work did he, like his great fellow-American, overcome that obstacle and make his life a great and immortal success.

This conference is called by the Commission of Conservation and the Advisory Board on Wild Life Protection. The Department of the Interior is especially interested in the conference, and, as the head of that department, it is indeed a privilege to me to welcome