

*Canadian Centennial*

of the resolution that I do think should receive very serious consideration along with the others by the members on the government side of the house. Action along this line has been taken by people on a voluntary and nationwide basis, and I willingly give full credit to the constructive work of successive federal governments, prodded along by the relatively small number of people in the country who are interested in the conservation of our natural resources, their utilization and their proper development for the future.

I realize that the government has inaugurated taxation policies to this end. Our transportation policy has tended in this direction, particularly with the subsidization of the railroad bridge between east and west through northern Ontario. Then there has been government co-operation by agreement with the provinces for the taking of forest inventories, reforestation and last year fire protection, which is a very important step indeed. We in this group realize the important work done under the Canada Water Conservation Act, the eastern Rockies conservation board, the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act, the Maritime Marshland Rehabilitation Act and grants for the control of the spruce budworm in New Brunswick.

We recognize the work done in connection with research into these problems by the agricultural science service, the forest branch, the forest products laboratory, the water resources branch, the bureau of mines and the national research council. We recognize that this total of undertakings by the federal government, in some cases in co-operation with provincial governments, represents a considerable contribution towards the development of conservation of natural resources in this country.

Before proceeding further, I want to pay a tribute to the work that has been undertaken by voluntary organizations in Canada. Once again I pay tribute to the Canadian forestry association which is doing some excellent work with respect to programs for schools, lectures and things of that sort; also the work undertaken by the Canadian forestry institute and the agricultural institute of Canada which has dealt primarily with the conservation of land, soil and water resources; the provincial conservation council of Ontario which has done great work; and the British Columbia natural resources conference which was established in 1948. I was very pleased, Mr. Speaker, to have the opportunity to peruse the ninth report which was published quite recently. I want to quote from that report because it deals with the objectives

of that organization which, on a provincial level, is doing great work in this connection.

The British Columbia natural resources conference is an organization representing industry, university, government, both provincial and federal. The conference is concerned with the conservation, from the viewpoint of the full utilization, of all the natural resources of British Columbia. Through its inter-agency membership there is an annual meeting of the conference, the prime purpose of which is to promote integration and co-ordination of resource development in this province.

I want to mention also the work that has been undertaken by the conservation league of B.C., which has been sponsored by the Honourable H. H. Stevens, who was once a cabinet minister in this house, and the work undertaken by the pulp and paper industry in Canada generally, particularly in British Columbia; by groups organized to represent rod and gun clubs, universities and many local groups which have sort of stoked the fires of the provincial and larger organizations. In my opinion, Mr. Speaker, this voluntary association and organization work and activity provides a splendid basis for government and rank and file action on which to build a nation-wide acceptance of the principles of resources development, and a splendid opportunity for a committee such as this to appoint a subcommittee to deal with this particular aspect of this resolution.

Now, there has always been objection to getting dominion-provincial co-operation established perhaps along these lines because there is supposed to be a possible suggestion that there is transgression on provincial rights. We have a conference between Canada and the United States coming up, to which we look forward to reaching an agreement on an equitable basis for the development of the Columbia basin. We are awaiting the minister's announcement with a great deal of interest in connection with these important matters.

Then, there are conferences with other governments with regard to conservation of fisheries which have resulted in some satisfactory treaties. There has been good work in that direction, resulting in co-operation between governments. Then, the minister and the federal officials attend international conferences on resource development and this co-operation has produced excellent results. Yet we often see, even now, members of the federal government protesting that if you try to do anything along these lines in a dominion-provincial conference dealing with this particular subject, this aspect of the resolution, we would be accused of trespassing on provincial jurisdiction and rights.

I noticed that the former minister of northern affairs and national resources attended the 19th North American wild life