THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

By L. S. WEBB,

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I WELCOME all the members of the Canadian Society of Forest Engineers to the 34th Annual Meeting. This is the first time in many years that the society has held its annual meeting in Quebec. In fact, it is fourteen years since the last meeting was held here. During the past year or so a new arrangement has been made, tentative in character, whereby, in the ordinary course of events, we may expect to meet in Quebec City more often.

I welcome also the members of the Quebec Association of Forest Engineers,—some are members of the Canadian Society and some are not. A cordial invitation has been extended to the members of this Association to attend this meeting and take part in the discussions.

The activities of the Editorial Board, insofar as the expenditure of money is concerned, is confined mainly to the production of publications. The comparatively small revenue from an organization as large as ours prevents any further expansion along that line. Mr. Fenwick and Mr. Druce deserve considerable credit for being able to keep within their budget, as it requires very careful planning in the production and printing of the "Chronicle" to prevent an over expenditure.

During this meeting you will be asked through the Resolutions Committee to consider this matter of revenue and perhaps discuss the possibility of greater revenues during the year 1942.

The various standing committees created in the past carried on through correspondence during the year, and you will hear reports on their activities.

The Society mourns the losses it has sustained through the death of some of its leading members. I refer to E. C. Manning, Chief Forester of British Columbia, who lost his life in an airplane accident, George U. Bayly of Ontario, Otto Schierbeck of New Brunswick, Henri Methot of Quebec and Henri Roy, Chief Forester of the Province of Quebec. All these men were in high office in their provinces, and were considered experts in their line.

The various sections have been active during the year, and I think this formation of sections is the most forward step that the Society has made during the past ten years. It is only through these sections that we are able to improve the work of the Society. We have only to look to the work of the Quebec Association of Forest Engineers to realize what can be done by groups of foresters who are properly organized. At the present time, some of our sections are just getting well established, and it will be a few years before their work is co-ordinated in order to solve their problems. The benefits are already being felt in the Society. They have a twofold purpose: the expression of opinion on problems raised at the annual meetings, and the discussion of the local problems that arise in the territory covered by each section.

During the past year two main problems have occupied the attention of the Executive, and some attempt has been made to solve them. One is Post-War Rehabilitation and the other Forest Policy, which are more or less dovetailed one into the other.

For the coming year we cannot predict very far ahead as to how much will be accomplished or what may be done.

I would ask your co-operation especially in the collection of dues, as many members have to be written to two or three times before they pay.

I would ask the sections to consider the increasing of membership within their sections. The records show that there are 153 members who do not belong to sections. Efforts should be made to get them more interested in the work of the Society and to take part in the deliberations and work of their sections.

Until the revenues of our Society are greater, we cannot expect much expansion. But this improvement in revenue will have to come slowly and will depend on the feeling of the members. The Executive feel that, if the Society wants more, it will have to supply the Executive with more money by an increase in dues.

During the year, we will all have to put greater effort into our work, both in our profession and in our war effort. This is the first year when we will be really feeling the war, and going out as forest engineers and citizens, I know you will all do your part.