PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS¹

BY ERIC DRUCE

It is over twenty years since our Society held an annual meeting in New Brunswick or, for that matter, at any point east of Quebec. It is twenty-five years since I, myself, last visited Fredericton and, in consequence, I have looked forward with pleasure to being here today, to enjoying again the quiet charm and beauty of New Brunswick's capital, and to viewing the developments that have occurred in the quarter-century that has intervened—the University Woodlot, the expanded Forestry School, and the recently established Maritime Ranger School—not to mention the luxurious new hostelry in which we are meeting.

I would like to convey to you, Mayor (Roy T.) Forbes, the thanks and appreciation of our membership for the hospitable greeting you have extended to us. In the past, graduates of the New Brunswick Forest School have made noteworthy contributions to the development of forestry both across the Dominion and elsewhere—two of them, incidentally, as Chief Foresters of British Columbia—and I know that the papers and discussions that will hold our attention during this three-day meeting will fall into the category of "more quality products from New Brunswick."

I wish also to tender to the Maritime Section, through their Chairman, W. W. McCormack, the thanks of our Society for playing host to our membership, and to congratulate the Section and, in particular, their Annual Meeting Committee under the Chairmanship of W. A. Reeks, for their excellent organizational work and for the comprehensive program they have lined up.

Through force of circumstance, it is twenty months since we held our last General Meeting in Vancouver, and several events of major importance in Canadian forestry affairs have occurred in that interval. Without entering into any detailed discussion on individual matters, nor attempting to evaluate or list them in the order of their importance, I simply want to enumerate these developments. In May, 1947, two of the Provincial Royal Commissions surveying the forestry situation in their respective Provinces—Ontario and Saskatchewan—submitted reports to the Governments concerned. (It is of considerable interest, incidentally, in reading these two reports and the Report of the British Columbia Commission which preceded them by some few months, to reflect on the individual characteristics and experience of the members of the three Commissions concerned.)

All three reports are in accord on the need for remedying the wasteful harvesting methods of the past; for reduction in loss from fire, insects, and disease; for closer utilization; and for the initiation of a sustained yield policy in our forest stands.

Since the submission of the B.C. Commission Report in 1945, there have been three full-dress sessions of the Provincial Legislature, and a con-

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siderable volume of legislation in implementation of Commission recommendations has been promulgated. The outstanding item in this category was the 1947 legislation creating Forest Management Licences. Small-scale Forest Management Licences, entitled Farm Woodlot Licences, were authorized by 1948 legislation.

I do not know to what extent the recommendations of the Saskatchewan Commission have been implemented. It is my understanding that, in Ontario, there have been numerous extensive revisions of existing legislation and that Bill No. 118, of the 1947 Statutes, provides for the initiation of Forest Management.

Another event during this period of a year and a half is the creation of the Commission to administer the East-slope Rocky Mountain watersheds. The Society can take pride in the appointment of one of its members, Major-General Howard Kennedy, to the Chairmanship of this Commission, and the fact that others of our members are included in the administrative personnel.

In April, 1947, there was an interesting development in the organization, at Ottawa, of a Parliamentary and Scientific Committee, along the lines of the British Parliamentary Scientific Committee. The Committee is unofficial in status, composed of interested members of the House of Commons and the Senate together with representatives of scientific and technical organizations, with the purpose of establishing liaison between legislators and scientists.

The same year that saw the establishment of Forest Management Licences in the Province, the B.C. Legislature passed an Act creating an Association of Registered Foresters. This is the third association of this nature in the Dominion, similar organizations having preceded it in Quebec and New Brunswick. One of our members F. D. Mulholland, a former President of the Society—was largely instrumental in promoting this development, with every encouragement and assistance from the Minister of Lands and Forests, Honourable E. T. Kenney, and fellow-members of the Society in British Columbia.

Also, during 1947, there occurred a vigorous re-birth of the National Research Council's Associate Committee on Forestry, under the Chairmanship of Major-General Howard Kennedy. Originally set up under General A. G. McNaughton, then President of the National Research Council, it became inactive during the war years but, since its re-establishment, by energetic support of several fields of forest investigation, has proven its value to our forest economy.

Within our Society, we have expanded by the inclusion of a new Section, the Central Ontario Section, with headquarters at Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

After an eleven-year hiatus the Fifth Imperial Forestry Conference was held in London, England, in July and August, 1947. The Conference was attended, in their official capacities in government and industry, by several of our members.

All-in-all, the past twenty months have witnessed the birth, revival, or expansion of a forestry program in this country on a scale that exceeds any

previous developments in a like period. In recognizing and acknowledging this, however, we must give due cognizance to the long years of preparation that preceded it, often accompanied only by discouragement and, on the face of it, loss of ground. As foresters, we must accustom ourselves not to a year-by-year but a twenty-year valuation of past progress. From that standpoint, we can find much evidence for satisfaction and encouragement.

In respect to the progress and conduct of the Society's affairs during the past year, I must tender my sincere apologies. My own work and private affairs during that time have been extremely demanding and have been responsible for my delinquencies but that does not constitute a valid reason, inasmuch as there was a solution at hand had I taken the necessary action. I realize now that I should have resigned from the Presidency when the problem became apparent last December and suggested to the Executive that R. E. Balch be asked to carry on the duties in my stead. Although I contemplated such action I was, unfortunately, reluctant to do so and, in the hope that the situation would remedy, I held on long after my usefulness was ended. As a result, our Secretary-treasurer, Clarence Cooper, and the Chairman of the Editorial Board, K. G. Fensom, were forced to carry on without assistance or direction on my part. It is due largely to their efforts that the work of the Society has not suffered more than it has. They deserve credit in even greater measure than for their outstanding efforts of previous years.

I cannot adequately express my thanks to them for their patience and attention to Society affairs in an extremely difficult and embarrassing situation.

I would also express my gratitude to our Vice-President, R. E. Balch, and to W. A. Reeks, Chairman of the Annual Meeting Committee, for the way in which they carried on their work despite my lack of co-operation.

The appreciation of the Society is also due to George Tunstell and Colonel J. H. Jenkins for the services they have rendered on our behalf with the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers and Scientists. I know they have spent much time that might have been devoted to their own work and interests in representing the Society on that body. Detailed reports on all these phases of our activities will be submitted for your consideration during the course of this meeting and I can only repeat that the Society—and myself particularly—owes much to the many who have contributed their services so willingly during this past year.