PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

By R. E. BALCH¹

To use the words of the Apostle, Westerners are much "given to hospitality". I know that these meetings will be memorable for the welcome that has been extended to us. I suppose that Mr. J. A. Hutchison will be reluctant to accept the credit for the magnificent scenery that surrounds us, but I would like to express to him our appreciation of the way in which it has been preserved and made accessible by the National Parks Service. We also thank him for all the assistance he has given the Annual Meeting Committee in arranging for our accommodation and entertainment.

The Rocky Mountain Section is the youngest but one of our branches. It seems to have the vigour of youth. I do not remember that the big job of preparing for these meetings has ever been approached with more energy and efficiency. To the Rocky Mountain Section as a whole, and to George Hopping and his Committee in particular, I want to express our most hearty thanks and congratulations. I know something of the difficulties they have taken in their stride, and the great amount of work they have done on our behalf.

Another reason that this is a memorable occasion is that it is the first time we have met as the Canadian Institute of Forestry. As a result of decisions made at the last meeting of the Canadian Society of Forest Engineers, following almost unanimous agreement of the members by letter ballot, we have completed all the steps necessary to formalize the change of name and by-laws. The charter of the C.S.F.E. has been surrendered and the Secretary of State has issued the necessary letters patent.

This is, however, the forty-third annual meeting of the foresters of Canada. Our objects are still the same as those of the C.S.F.E.: to raise the standards of our profession and to promote the practice of better forestry in our country. The change in name and by-laws marks only a stage in continuous growth of the Society—a growth in size which must be matched by a growth in responsibility and influence.

It is nevertheless an important stage, and may perhaps be said to mark the coming of age of the profession of forestry. If you look back over the minutes of the meetings of the C.S.F.E., you will see that the need for some of the changes in our 'constitution' which we have recently completed has been recognized for over twenty years. That they have now been so generally accepted indicates that we are aware of the increasing importance of professional training in forestry, and also of the necessity of pooling our experience and co-ordinating our efforts on a national as well as a regional scale.

In order to ensure that the by-laws are kept up to date and that they will continue to serve the wishes of the membership as a whole, a standing committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Roy Campbell. This committee has advised the Board of Directors regarding enquiries and suggestions that have been received during the year. The Secretary-Treasurer

¹ Presented at the annual meeting of the Canadian Institute of Forestry, Banff, Alberta, October 11-13, 1951.

has also aided in clarifying the effects of the by-laws on Section procedure. One question that has been carefully reviewed by the Committee and the Board at the request of a Section was the restriction of active membership to those graduated in forestry by recognized universities. This has been discussed at length and I want to assure you that our sole concern has been to interpret the wishes of the majority of the members without ignoring what appear to be the opinions of a minority. It is felt by the Board that this qualification of graduation is necessary to ensure the recognition of the Institute as a professional body, and that it is the most practical, if not the only, way to do this. It is a reflection of the fact that we have four well established and rapidly growing Faculties of Forestry in Canadian universities whose function it is to select and prepare young men for work of a professional nature.

This does not mean that four or five years of formal training is more important than, or a substitute for, experience and accomplishment. Some of those who have made important contributions to forestry have done so without benefit of a forestry degree. There may be a tendency among some to look upon those who happen to have a University degree as a sort of Brahmin caste above all common men. I think there is little danger of this among those who work in the woods. But we must recognize that nowadays any young man with the requisite determination and ability can go through University, and that he has to take advantage of this opportunity for training if he wishes to call himself a forester.

Because of this dependence of the profession on the universities, we are particularly interested in the type of education available to young foresters and have a committee which is endeavouring to find ways and means for promoting a thorough study of the subject. Ken Fensom will report to you on the results to date.

It may be well to ask ourselves: What is this profession we talk about? The question has been well answered by the distinguished forester, Professor H. H. Chapman, in a paper presented to the Vancouver Section and published in the June "Chronicle". The ideals of the profession are exemplified in the careers of men like Ellwood Wilson who have been pioneers in thinking and in action and at the same time have not compromised with opposition to the principles of good forestry. There are two essential characteristics which the Institute, as custodian of the profession's reputation, must strive to maintain. They are a high level of competence and a high standard of ethics. Foresters are concerned with the science and practice of forestry in a great variety of fields, but they all demand these two things. We do not talk much about ethics, but every forester knows that the confidence of his employer and of the public in his motives, as well as in his knowledge and judgment, is vital to his success. We do not always agree among ourselves, but there is plenty of room for differences of opinion and viewpoint, provided these are honestly held and fearlessly expressed. Forestry is a public service as well as a business. In recognition of these facts we have adopted a Code of Ethics. Since our last meeting a standing committee on the Code has been appointed under the

chairmanship of R. M. Brown to advise on its interpretation and use. It is proposed that a copy be provided to all new members as part of the Manual of the Institute which is being prepared by a committee under H. A. Richmond.

It is interesting to note in Chapman's paper the many similarities, as well as some differences, between the development of the profession in the United States and Canada. We have similar goals. Inevitably the Society of American Foresters has developed more rapidly. The differences have been largely due to greater size and greater diversity of forest conditions to the South. We have fewer foresters in relation to the area of forest land—too few. It is one of the anomalies of forestry that its rate of growth tends to be in inverse proportion to the ratio between the amount of forest and the amount of population. The great size of the forests of Canada has tended to postpone recognition of the need for their protection and management. With our rapid industrial growth, however, Canadians have begun to see the need for applying the methods of science to the economic production of the future forest crop as well as to the utilization of the accumulated growth of past centuries.

In spite of differences, the lines of development of the S.A.F. and the C.S.F.E. have tended to converge and there has always been a close relationship between the two societies. Our memberships overlap. We co-operate in committee work. As evidence of our mutual interests and respect, I am glad to report that we are planning to hold our Annual Meetings jointly next year in Montreal. With these things in mind, we particularly welcome at these meetings a number of our colleagues from the United States, including Mr. Henry Clepper, Executive Secretary of the American Society.

We will also have another opportunity next year to exchange ideas with fellow foresters from other countries when the Sixth British Commonwealth Forestry Conference meets in Canada. We look forward to renewing our contacts with British foresters. As an example of our established liaison with the British Empire Forestry Association, I would like to draw your attention to the report of Dean Sisam's committee on a Glossary of Forest Terminology. The committee has co-operated with the Association in the production of a work that should be invaluable to foresters everywhere.

An important development of the past year has been the formation of a new Section in the Saguenay region of Quebec. This is a part of the Province which is developing rapidly and contains a considerable number of members who have had difficulty in joining in the activities of the Quebec Section for geographical reasons. We particularly welcome this evidence of increasing interest in the Province of Quebec, and are glad to see that Messrs. Rivard and Caron are here to represent the new Section.

Two new standing committees have been formed following resolutions passed last year: On Soils and Sites under the chairmanship of Angus Hills and on Land Tenure and Taxation, lead by Miles Gibson. These are important subjects which will call for a lot of study and we look forward to the reports of these committees with keen interest.

During the year I have tried to keep members and sections in touch with the work of the Executive by means of periodic reports. These have indicated the action taken on last year's resolutions. W. M. Bastedo has continued his good work on Section Liaison Reports.

The Rocky Mountain Section has chosen as the main theme of these meetings a subject which is particularly appropriate to this time and place. Some of us who do not live at these high altitudes and breathe this mountain air may be in danger of forgetting that forests produce many values besides sawlogs and pulpwood. It is easy to see here that they are much more than so many cubic feet of wood. From the discussion of multiple use we should get many new ideas to take home, for nowhere can the use of forest land be considered solely from the point of view of a specialized industry.

We will also discuss the subject of Woodlot Management Promotion which has been given particular attention during the past year under the guidance of a committee most ably chaired by Lloyd Van Camp who has put at its disposal his own valuable experience and a large share of the facilities of the Canadian Forestry Association.

Before opening the business session, may I add that these meetings will be memorable to me as they terminate a two-year period of office which has been made pleasant and relatively easy by the assistance of the other officers and the members of the Board and chairmen of committees. I must mention particularly the great contribution made to the work of the Institute by Ken Fensom and Dave Love. We have been most fortunate in our Secretary-Treasurer who has organized and carried on the work of Head Office so efficiently and faithfully. As editor and number one stimulator of ideas and effort, Ken Fensom has been responsible for much of the progress of the C.S.F.E. and the C.I.F. in recent years. His capacity for work is inexhaustible. On Saturday I look forward to handing on to him the honour of being your President, which he has so richly earned, and the responsibilities which he is so well qualified to undertake.