

Conservation of Soil Urgent, Says Hancock

Creation of a soil conservation service under the new Department of Planning and Development was suggested in the Legislature yesterday by Leslie Hancock (C.C.F., Wellington South) in the Throne Speech debate. A graduate of Ontario Agricultural College, where he lectured for six years, Mr. Hancock devoted his entire address to the problems of conservation of natural resources.

A thorough reorganization of the work of the college and the courses provided in the light of modern scientific development was urged by Mr. Hancock. He called upon the Government to make greater use of scientists at the University of Toronto, particularly in the matter of soil conservation. In advocating that a soil conservation service be set up along with planning for conservation projects, Mr. Hancock said the new department had a splendid opportunity to utilize the training of competent scientists to the utmost.

"The new department must really plan and not become a general dumping ground for a thousand unrelated schemes," said Mr. Hancock. "I know of no more lasting benefit to the nation than that of reclaiming surface-soil anywhere that is in danger of being carried away to the rivers and the sea. We must start now to set up bodies that will prepare these plans. We must set up courses to train the personnel who will carry out these plans, and then, as the war nears a victorious conclusion, we will be ready."

On what Canada did today would depend whether future citizens would live among green and well-watered hills and valleys or whether Canada would return to rocks and desert wastes, said the C.C.F. member. The picture at present was one of land drained of every possible swamp area. Springs had been dried up, water tables had been lowered, and in Southern Ontario tree acreage was now below the danger point of 16 per cent, he asserted.

"This policy has resulted in vast amounts of top soil being washed away annually into our streams and lakes," he continued. "We have upset the balance of nature and have

created conditions encouraging floods. The greatest natural resource in the first six inches of top soil and everything above it. It is in the great agricultural areas of Southern Ontario where conservation is needed and needed quickly."

Urges Allowance Plan To Oust Marriage Fear

Ontario should establish family allowances to remove from its young people the fear of marriage and child-bearing and their economic consequences, Aurelien Belanger (L., Prescott), told the Legislature yesterday. This, he felt, would be a worthwhile addition to the "four freedoms" provided in the Atlantic Charter.

He coupled his suggestion with a scathing condemnation of artificial birth control and warned against disintegration of the family as a serious national threat.

In a scholarly contribution to the Throne Speech debate, the Dean of the French-Canadian members in the Legislature pleaded for national unity and understanding between French and English-Canadians. He urged the teaching of religion in the schools and the wider dissemination of the French language, "not as a dead language but as one of the two official languages of Canada."

Mr. Belanger described the great attachment of French-Canadians to Canada.

"Do you not think they consider this their land?" he asked. "We want this Canada to continue as an integral part of the British Commonwealth—we are attached to British institutions. We are attached—I will not use the word 'Empire,' it does not smell good to my nostrils—we are attached to the British Commonwealth."

"But we are not subservient to Great Britain but an equal partner." Of national unity, he said: "If there is a real effort to break national and religious prejudices, to work for

unity, to say no word or contort no act to disrupt that unity for which our boys are fighting, when they come home from the front they would find this Province united in a common desire to make Canada one of the first countries of the world."

Family life, he stressed, was the only bulwark against delinquency and in this regard he said he would commission litterateurs "to find out everything nice about babies and maternity and parenthood, as well as artists to choose wonderful pictures to instil love of babies in boys and girls."

Special readers, too, he said, should be provided for rural schools if young people were to be kept on the farm. They should be readers that praised rural life, containing "poetry that sings the glories of the farm."

His 90-minute address was highlighted by an illuminating presentation of the dignities and duties of Parliamentary procedure, high tribute to Speaker Stewart and a stirring recapitulation of French-Canada's contribution to the Dominion's history which should extend in all minds back beyond Wolfe and Montcalm, he declared.

Ontario 'Hansard' Going Strong

Ontario Legislature members have given more than a quarter million words to posterity since the official stenographic report of House debates was inaugurated Feb. 23. Official reporters already have filled more than 500 typewritten pages of 500 words each, an official said.