

FOURTEENTH
NORTHEASTERN FOREST TREE
IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE

University of Toronto
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WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

D. F. Forster¹

Mr. Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen -- It's a great pleasure for me to be representing Dr. Bissell in welcoming you to this meeting which I understand is the first this organization has ever held in Canada. It struck me as odd that you would come to the middle of a place like metropolitan Toronto to talk about the subjects on the program; in fact, you see some evidence right outside this door as you come in off Wilcox Street of some of the difficulties of tree breeding, of tree survival in the middle of an area like this.

It was suggested that perhaps you might be interested in hearing something about the University of Toronto. I hope you will have some opportunity in your very full program to wander around a bit and see the growth that we're partly proud of and partly deplore, depending on our point of view. We are growing very rapidly; we are basically a State University receiving most of our support from Governmental sources, the largest part from the Provincial Government, a smaller part from Federal Government, and of course research funds and private benefactions.

The growth we were obligated to undertake was first in the undergraduate area because of the demand for University places in Ontario but unlike the pattern in some other jurisdictions, particularly in the United States, the Ontario Government chose instead of expanding established Universities to astronomical proportions to develop a new University program. They have proliferated at a great rate throughout Ontario, and of course Toronto has had to assume some special obligations towards these new institutions. But recently at Toronto we have concentrated on our graduate program, and this has expanded here very, very dramatically, just in the last 3 or 4 years, although some faculties and divisions of the University have had a well developed program for much longer. This has brought immense problems at Toronto in terms of new facilities, staff recruitment, and student facilities, and this is a problem we have yet to fully meet.

We are in the process now of developing a vast new medical school, roughly a doubling of facilities for the education of doctors and specialist personnel. We are hoping in the very near future to be able to begin work on a new research library which will probably be something of a headquarters library for a Universities library system. The buildings you see marching down St. George Street are

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a product of our rapid expansion, and I think you should wander around some of the older areas of the campus and see that the University of Toronto does have some quiet places and does have some rather beautiful places in some of the older portions of the campus.

The Faculty of Forestry here is the oldest forestry school in Canada, founded in 1907. It offers a wide-ranging undergraduate and graduate program in cooperation with other departments of the University and, with the Department of Botany, does offer graduate work in your subject of interest, forest tree breeding. There are many members of the faculty here this morning and they will be glad to do whatever they can for the visiting delegates.

I also hope that you will have some opportunity to see something of the City of Toronto. This University sits more or less in the heart of the city itself, but the metropolitan area has expanded vastly. I am informed that this is the second most rapidly growing metropolitan area in North America. We think we have done rather well compared with some other large urban areas, but you can see evidences of the normal kinds of urban problems all around you in transportation, traffic, and everything else.

The University of Toronto has fostered one child, another university in Toronto which was technically a part of the University for some time; York University, which hopes to expand to a total enrollment of 15,000 by 1975. The University of Toronto itself has spawned two constituent colleges, one of which, Scarborough College, has caused a great deal of architectural comment; the other, Erindale College, will be located at the western extremity of the metropolitan area, some 25 miles west of our present location. Both Erindale and Scarborough are expected to have an enrollment of 5000 students each by 1980 in our three-year general course program, general science, and general arts. Well in the future is a proposal to build a city college close to the lake front which would offer a variety of extension work and night programs, and again the University of Toronto will undoubtedly assume some special obligations.

So we have had a rather exciting time in the past few years, and as we grow to our maximum enrollment of 23,000 we are looking forward to even more exciting times, The organization of the University of Toronto is impossible to describe. It is horribly complex and rather top heavy, but one of the real problems, as anyone who is acquainted with the University of Toronto knows, is our peculiar federated structure. Three church-affiliated colleges are part of the University of Toronto and have surrendered their degree-granting authority to the University in return for certain considerations. There would be no sense in attempting to bore you or confuse you with any sort of description of how this peculiar structure works. Few can explain it successfully.

In conclusion, I repeat again that I wish you well in your deliberations -- you have a very full program here today and an equally full program tomorrow on your field trip. On behalf of Dr. Bissell, I welcome you to the University of Toronto and to the City, and I hope you have a productive and enjoyable time in your sessions. Thank you very much.