

OPENING ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT

J.A. Brown, Canadian Wood Preservation Association

Ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all here today to the Eighth Annual Meeting of the Canadian Wood Preservation Association. This association is dedicated to an annual exchange of technical information to those with an active interest in wood protection.

There are copies of our membership list available to you and you will note the diversification of wood protection businesses that transverse the list.

You will note that this conference is not concentrating on safety and environmental concerns as we have sometimes done in the past. The exception is tomorrow morning when industrial hygiene is discussed. However, this should not be construed as a sign of non attention. We all know that all of the codes of good practice and their recommendations will be in force in 1988. We also know the emphasis being placed on clean land, air and water. All of these items may be appropriate for a future conference.

Putting together a theme for any conference is difficult at best and preparing opening remarks is sometimes difficult as well.

I started to think about what people in our business, wood protection and conservation, have been through this past twelve month period and have picked out some headlines over the past year that have affected all of us and which may cause an ironic snicker or two.

Headline #1 The United States says Canada dumping lumber in U.S. and states they will place a 27% tariff on Canadian lumber.

Headline #2 Canada says we are not dumping lumber and will fight tariffs to the bitter end.

Headline #3 Canada says we are not dumping lumber, but 15% tariff better than 27% tariff. (Was it Churchill who said some bitter - some end?)

Headline #4 Industry states if there is any tariff it should have only been 5%, and we are not dumping.

Headline #5 Provinces say they will never agree to 15% tariff.

Headline #6 B.C. government says stumpage too low.

Headline #7 Provinces agree to 15% tariff.

Headline #8 B.C. government increases stumpage fees and takes away 5% of allowable cut.

Headline #9 B.C. government asks the Canadian government to ask the U.S. government if the stumpage increase is okay with them.

Headline #10 Environmentalists want all forests declared as national parks.

Despite these emotional headline roller coaster rides, our businesses are here to stay. This conference is designed to get us back to the basics of wood protection, which results in forest conservation.

I hope you will participate in, and thoroughly enjoy our two day conference.

Thank you.