



SESSION I

OFFICIAL OPENING

by Dr. Allan R. Callaghan, C.M.G.

The community, because of its vested interest in the land as the principal source of national income, had developed a very worthy land-use consciousness. This healthy development had resulted from spectacular changes which had occurred, such as declines in soil fertility, the visible effects of water and wind erosion, and the infestation of the country-side with weeds.

The presence of weeds was largely the outcome of wrong land-use, and mere elimination of the weeds was not an end in itself, but must be accompanied by desirable changes in land-use.

Recent advances in chemical weed control were proving very effective in helping in the struggle to deal with the weeds problem; but farmers should be discouraged from getting the false idea that chemical means, in themselves, were the whole answer.

The farmer must realise that good agriculture, based on sound cultural methods, proper land-use, and the use of competition from crops and pastures still remained the essentials of sound weed control. The aid of chemical weedicides should be enlisted by all means, but to expect them to do the whole job was wishful thinking that could only lead to disillusionment.

The modernising of weed control legislation was a very practical problem, which could well receive the attention of a conference such as this.