

THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE GARDEN

*A Symbol and a
Challenge*

AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BY

Mr. D. G. McKENZIE
PRESIDENT

THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE GARDEN, INC.


Symbols ARE Important

. . . A GARDEN beautifully painted by nature surely is a symbol of Peace. . . All down through the ages symbols have contributed much to influence and direct the course followed by peoples and nations . . .

The day and hour to make real the noble concept of an International Peace Garden have surely come. . . Let each bear his full share in accepting this responsibility proudly and gladly, fully aware of the timeliness and high significance of his contribution.



The address which follows was delivered in the presence of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba and His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of North Dakota and a representative group of prominent citizens of both Manitoba and North Dakota.



MAY I EXPRESS our very deep pleasure and gratitude to all present tonight for having honored our organization by your presence at this little gathering. For almost one hundred and thirty-five years our two countries have lived as neighbors in good-will and friendship. The events of the last quarter century, and particularly the circumstances of the two great world wars, have brought us into even closer and warmer relationship. Military and economic developments seem destined to force our two countries into close and lasting collaboration, co-operation and unity of action. Recognizing this great bond of friendship and mutual interests, we have invited you to join with us in formulating plans to memorialize these happy relationships and to show to the world that the ways of peace can be made lasting and effective.

THE GREATEST MESSAGE OF ALL TIME

It is now almost two thousand years since the world received the greatest message of all time when the angelic hosts sang, "Peace on earth, good-will toward men." But in spite of the inspiration of that Divine message, this old world continued in its ways of destruction and wasteful warfare. The last decade learned afresh the terrible suffering and sacrifice of the great world war but was again inspired to new hopefulness when we received that gladsome declaration, "The war is over. Peace has come to the world again." That was the joyful message that rang out to the whole world just a little over two years ago. Still fresh in our memory is the joy, the thankfulness and the great relief from anxiety, fear and dread with which we received that soul stirring message. The terrible sacrifices and suffering of the war years, while indelibly fixed in our memories, suddenly gave place to fresh hope and confidence, strong in the belief that a wonderful new world was on the way. We were full of hope that the old world would find new means of settling international disputes, and never again would resort to cruel destructive

warfare be necessary. The principles of the Four Freedoms and the Atlantic Charter were to govern our international relationships. The United Nations, through its various subsidiary committees and organizations, would establish the formulae and procedures necessary to give full effect to these great principles. *"The common welfare of mankind"* was to be one of its great concerns and among its techniques it sought "to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture."

But now, after two years of effort, our confidence is becoming weakened and our hopes clouded. The Big Four Nations are finding it almost impossible to agree on the terms of Peace. Our international trade conferences are finding it equally difficult to define the conditions of international trade. The old attempts at "Power Politics" and "Blocks" are still persistent and it is now apparent the world is still divided into hostile camps. *On every side is heard the threat of war and the fear expressed of another terrible world holocaust more completely destructive than anything that has gone before. Another world war, fought with atomic power and modern war equipment, can only mean almost entire destruction of our present civilization. A sense of uneasiness continues to grow, even in Canada, as is evidenced in the Gallup Poll. The replies to the question, Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the progress made so far by the United Nations? indicate:*

	1946 May	1946 June	Today
Satisfied	39%	31%	26%
Dissatisfied	27%	44%	38%
No opinion	34%	25%	36%

A similar survey for eight countries shows the following result:

	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Undecided
France	9%	30%	61%
Sweden	13%	21%	66%
Holland	13%	52%	35%
Denmark	16%	42%	42%
Canada	26%	38%	36%
Australia	26%	39%	35%
Norway	32%	30%	38%
United States	33%	51%	16%

The majority of people in these countries are still in favor of the United Nations organization but it does seem that a steadily increasing number are fearing another world war, and more and more this subject is becoming the theme of public and private discussion. The United Nations, acutely conscious of the dangers associated with such mental reactions, made specific plans to repel this type of thinking and in the constitution of the United Nations' Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, expressed the opinion that "since wars begin in the mind of man, it is in the minds of men that the defence of peace must be constructed."

A NOBLE CONCEPT—NOBLY CONCEIVED

This is the concept that prompted the late Dr. Henry J. Moore of Islington, Ontario, to propose at a meeting in Toronto in 1929 of the Gardeners' Association of North America, that an International Peace Garden should be established on the boundary between Canada and the United States; a beautiful garden to symbolize the bond of friendliness and good-will that has motivated the actions of these two great nations for more than one hundred and thirty years, and as a token of mutual determination to co-operate in every way to the achieving of lasting world peace.

SYMBOLS ARE IMPORTANT

Symbols are important. A garden beautifully painted by nature is surely a symbol of peace. All down through the ages symbols have contributed much to influence and direct the course followed by peoples and nations. The cross of our Lord has always, to millions of people, symbolized purity, liberty, justice, brotherly love, and the life eternal. The swastika has also influenced the action of millions of men, only it has stood for cruelty, suffering, starvation, and the complete loss of all that is dear in life.

THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE GARDEN

The International Peace Garden is to be made to symbolize the determination of all our people to dedicate their lives and energies to the preservation of peace. A committee, made up of Dr. H. J. Moore of Toronto, Joseph Dunlop of South Euclid, Ohio, and Robert P. Brydon of Cleveland, Ohio, was appointed to select a suitable site. Many possible locations were inspected along the Boundary.

Eventually one was unanimously chosen in the Turtle Mountains, a range of hills situated astride the Boundary between Manitoba and North Dakota, and almost at the exact geographical centre of the North American continent. At a later meeting of all those interested, held at Ashbury Park, New Jersey, on September 17th, 1931, the Turtle Mountain site received unanimous endorsement.

Government support was immediately forthcoming. The Manitoba Government transferred over 1,200 acres of land to the International Peace Garden, Incorporated, and the State of North Dakota and Washington presented an area of 888 acres, making a total site available of over 2,200 acres of land.

Development through the depression years was of necessity slow but on the American side a beautiful lodge was built and roadways laid out. On the Canadian side a large dam and an artificial lake were constructed, gravel roads were laid out, and some landscaping was done. In addition, a Customs and Immigration Office was built on the Canadian side of the Border. During the war years all the energies of both countries were united in a common war effort and obviously little or nothing could be done to develop the site.

Notwithstanding the difficulties encountered in the years since the Garden was first incorporated, sufficient has been achieved to amply demonstrate that the site can indeed be made a Garden beautiful and a fitting memorial, commemorating the happy relations which endure between the two peoples living on each side of the Boundary.

Again a world war has come to an end and the war weary world is now yearning for Peace and longs for the adoption of a symbol around which the forces for Peace can be mobilized and strengthened. It looks to this great continent of North America for leadership and inspiration because for almost 150 years we have settled all our international problems and disputes by collaboration and compromise and in so doing have demonstrated that the ways of Peace can be, and are being, made to work. In short, our history and our relationships constitute a living lesson of good-will and friendship and must become the inspiration that will lead the whole world to lasting Peace.

A CHALLENGE—AND A RESPONSIBILITY

This inspiration now becomes our great responsibility. We must accept the challenge of the ideals so indelibly established by Dr.

Moore and his associates, when they took the initial steps in organizing an International Peace Garden. Ours is the task of carrying those ideals into complete fruition through the establishment of a lasting memorial to the long standing friendship between the United States and Canada. In this war torn world these two countries stand out as a beacon of good-will to the whole world but this beacon must be made to shine afresh and we are asking all here tonight, together with the peoples of these two great nations, to join with us in this great task of dedication, so significant at this very time in history. We need your help and your assistance; we need the encouragement, the inspiration and the practical co-operation of all those great organizations here represented, and through them, the united support of all people of good-will and courageous vision.

The last great war demonstrated the enormous potential strength of these two countries. We must now mobilize this "capacity to do things" for the promotion of those ideals appropriately symbolized in a beautiful garden, well planned, soundly financed, and made to vividly and adequately express the cultural and spiritual ideals and aspirations of the citizens of this Western World.

A VIGOROUS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Your Board has spent a day in formulating plans for a vigorous program of development within the Garden, for adequate financing, and for organizing an effective appeal for public interest and support. We are budgeting for both capital needs and operating expenses, estimating that we will require \$100,000 in the next year or \$50,000 on each side of the Boundary. Our immediate capital needs are for such requirements as water installation, the cost of a gardener's residence, and an implement and tool building, a small tractor, tillage equipment, and garden tools, etc. Operating expenses must include a garden superintendent's salary and that of his necessary assistants, as well as all the extra expenses incidental to a project of this kind. Playgrounds, paths and roads are being planned, and plots are being provided for organizations desirous of developing their own part of the Garden. Already a number of organizations, including the Women's Institutes, the I.O.D.E., and others, have funds in reserve for such purposes, and we hope many other organizations may be similarly interested.

Plans are being made to secure the erection of an American Customs and Immigration Office at the site of the Garden. has already provided these facilities. We confidently expect that during the next two years North Dakota and Manitoba will have completed a hard surface highway on each side of the Boundary leading to the Garden. Tourists will then be able to travel from Mexico to the hindermost parts of Northern Manitoba on a well built highway. Our plans also contemplate inducing the appropriate governments on both sides of the Boundary to provide adequate and supervised tourist accommodation for visitors to the Garden.

AN INTERNATIONAL PEACE TOWER

We would like to erect a suitable international Peace Tower which would be a fitting memorial to the years of good-will between our countries, and as well a suitable Memorial to the thousands of men and women who sacrificed their lives in the last two great wars in order that we might continue to enjoy liberty, justice, the Four Freedoms, and all those things that make life worth while. As part of this great memorial, we would like to erect a little Chapel where friends and loved ones of those whose great sacrifice we commemorate could seek quiet comfort and spiritual consolation.

Then, too, I would like to suggest that we should in this beautiful natural setting plan to erect a building, large enough and of suitable design, to house an exhibit of all our birds, animals, and fish life. Let us bring the natural life of our countries in all its beauty and charm to this dedicated area so that nature will be given an opportunity to join with us in creating an appreciation of all that is lovely and wholesome.

Ladies and gentlemen, this gives you in very brief outline some ideas we have in mind for immediate attention. The possibilities of this whole project are unlimited. The vista that opens up for a really worth while effort is such as to challenge the imagination of all of us. The idealism embodied in this glorious objective is such that must challenge your interest and active support.

INTERNATIONAL PEACE HAS BEEN ATTAINED

There are those who think that World Peace is a purely visionary ideal, something to dream about but wholly without any of reality. They fail to recognize that in this great Western International Peace has been attained and will be maintained

reason of the determination of our people, expressed so vividly in the tablet on the cairn now located in the International Peace Garden. On that tablet are inscribed these words:

"To God in His Glory

We two nations dedicate this Garden
and pledge ourselves that as long as
men shall live, we will not take up
arms against one another."

Why is it possible for these two nations to so dedicate themselves? Why is it that we in this Western World can, by peaceful negotiation and compromise, settle our international disputes and differences that do arise from time to time, without recourse to war? What is it that we have that is absent in the Old World? Why is it that we can live side by side with three thousand miles of international border that knows no forts or guns? Perhaps it is because we have a heritage of great treasures of mind and spirit with great traditions, ideals and hopes, and that we have mutually dismissed from our minds all thoughts of war.

This is a wonderfully precious thing, but more amazingly wonderful when we realize that the pioneers from both our countries sprang from nearly every country in the world, with a *variety of racial history, religious ideals, economic status, and social and political philosophies that differ*, but all have come here to build homes where they can live their own lives, worship God in their own way, give boys and girls the best intellectual and moral equipment for life's battles, and shape a social life of friendly relationships with their neighbors. Differing greatly in temperament and racial characteristics, they had these things in common, a real desire for peace and good-will, a passion for liberty, a willingness to give and take with their neighbors, and a determination that they would settle their differences equitably.

THE WESTERN WORLD MUST LEAD

What a contrast with the conditions that prevail in Europe today where people live in an atmosphere of hate, suspicion, fear, and distrust! Is it not possible that the time has now come that this Western World must give that lead to the Old World that alone can bring it out to a lasting Peace based on good-will and mutual trust? Surely we owe it to the world to give effective expression through some practical manifestation of those great ideals that have

contributed to this lasting Peace between our two countries! What finer symbol of such an intention could be conceived than that of an International Peace Garden?

I would like to quote here from an article in the Christian Science Monitor called the "Hymn to Joy." "Among the quiet New England hills the other night, under the lonely reaches of the stars, the Ninth Symphony of Beethoven loosed its splendor on the air.

"People far from the scene of the Berkshire Music Festival—in city rooms, on suburban porches—heard over their radios the Boston Symphony Orchestra bringing mighty symphony to its triumphant last movement, where the chorus joins the instruments in proclaiming through Schiller's 'Hymn to Joy' the blessedness and universal brotherhood of man.

"During the last war a young anti-Nazi German girl wrote a letter to American friends which was smuggled out of Germany. In it she told of listening over her radio to the Vienna Philharmonic playing the Beethoven Ninth. When the chorus joined in the Schiller hymn, she wrote, they seemed to 'sing from the bottom of their hearts, as though they were expressing the deepest longings of all the people of the earth for peace.'

"That was in the midst of total war. The other night it was in the midst of uneasy atomic peace. The same stars looked down—the stars that spoke to Schiller of a loving Father's reign.

"The young anti-Nazi wrote that she wept as she listened, yet felt in her heart the joy of knowing that the law of brotherhood could not be forever hidden by the anarchy of war. Did any troubled heart the other night reach out through the botched, unhappy peace of today to the exultant joy that created the Ninth Symphony and that ordered the shining architecture of the stars?

"In spite of the stupid slumbers and nightmares of men, reality breaks through to listening hearts."

MAKE THIS PEACE GARDEN A REALITY

And so, the beautiful in nature speaks to men. Let us seek to give reality to this Peace Garden as its beauty grows more beautiful, year by year, because of our effort and expenditure. Let us, as we see this ambitious dream of a few men gradually being realized, appre-

ciate the Garden, not so much for what it is at the present, but for the vista which it opens to us of a future where nations will be at peace and the world free from the carnage of war. The consummation of these ideals may take years or even centuries but with God's help, with faith, perseverance and courage, it will, it must, ultimately come about. To what greater task and ideal could we apply ourselves?

In closing, to all here assembled I would address a personal message in these words of Henry Drummond: "You will find, as you look back upon your life, that the moments that stand out—the moments when you have really lived—are the moments when you have done things in a spirit of love. As memory scans the past, above and beyond all the transitory pleasures of life, there leap forward those supreme hours when you have been able to do unnoticed kindnesses to those about you, things too trifling to speak about, but which you feel have entered into your eternal life."

And so the challenge for support and interest in this great task to which we now devote ourselves comes to you and to all of us. Faith in ideals is a great thing but faith without works is dead. We must now by our works give reality to our faith and make sure that our works will be of such a nature as to promote peace and goodwill between the peoples of our two countries, and by precept and example demonstrate to the whole world that good-will among nations can be permanently established. With this ideal in our minds, and with determination in our hearts, we can look forward to the creating of an International Peace Garden of such beauty and significance as to fill us all with a sense of satisfaction that we were given an opportunity of making even a small contribution to its promotion and development.

*Winnipeg, Manitoba,
October 27, 1947.*

A Noble Concept... Nobly Conceived

That an International Peace Garden should be established on the boundary between Canada and the United States—a beautiful garden to symbolize the bond of friendliness and good-will that has motivated the actions of these two great nations—such was the noble concept nobly conceived by Dr. Henry J. Moore, of Islington, Ontario, in 1929. . . . Today, amid the present turmoil of conflicting thoughts inimical to peace, is surely the time in which to give leadership for Peace by bringing to fruition this noble symbol between two great nations as an example to the whole world that unity is possible.



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