

"which has assembled on the invitation of Mr. Hendry, representing the Lumbermen and Shingle Manufacturers of British Columbia. This convention has been called together for the purpose of considering what steps shall be taken to discover and to apply to the forests of British Columbia the best methods of forest management. At the beginning of this year, a similar convention was held at Ottawa, under the presidency of the Federal Prime Minister, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who convened it. I attended all the meetings of the convention, which lasted for three days, and I can bear witness to the fact that from the beginning to the end of that interesting convention, the papers and discussions averaged a singularly high order of merit, and that the interest of those attending the convention never flagged. The reason for this continued and sustained interest was this: We were dealing with a subject which all of us recognised to be of vital importance to the well-being of Canada. (Applause). We realised that the forests of Canada are the reservoirs that feed the rivers, on the even and continuous flow of which the agricultural prosperity of Canada depends. We realised that the reckless and wanton deforestation of other lands had converted territories at one time prosperous and populous, into stretches of barren wilderness, and we also realised as we listened to the papers and discussions, that in her forests Canada possesses an asset of priceless value and that if we can only apply to their management those principles and methods which have been shown to give the best results in other countries, we may look forward to deriving from our forests a continuous and increasing revenue, without destroying our capital. (Applause). The world's demand for timber is steadily increasing, the thoughtless improvidence of other countries having depleted timber resources which were considered almost as inexhaustible as those of British Columbia itself. I cannot commend to you too strongly the importance of studying now, before it is too late, those methods and principles of forest management which the experience and research of other nations may indicate to be the best. At Ottawa we were very greatly assisted by Mr. Pinchot, the head of the Forestry Department of Washington. I had hoped that Mr. Pinchot, whose admirable primer on Forestry ought to be on the bookshelf of everyone who cares about trees, might have been present here to-day. President Roosevelt is a warm friend of Canada, and takes a great deal of pleasure in helping Canadians to promote the welfare of their own country. Mr. Pinchot has kindly sent as his representative, Mr. Price, whom we are fortunate to have among us to-day, and I am sure that I am only voicing your sentiments when I say that you are grateful to the Government of the United States for sending Mr. Price to assist us in the work of this convention." (Applause.)