

who, although otherwise of good standing in the community, have not yet learned the lesson that carelessness with fire means disaster to B. C. When violations of the fire-prevention clauses of the Forest Act occur in any constituency, I ask the honourable member who represents it in this House to take an open stand alongside the members of the forest service engaged upon their duty, and neither seek to palliate the carelessness nor shield the offender.

### THE NEW EPOCH

"And now, sir, I approach the end of what I have to say. We are in session here today—in ordinary session—peacefully engaged upon the accustomed duties of the year, amending and enacting laws, making our annual attempt to improve the conditions under which we and our fellow citizens must live. We meet together in this House day after day for six or seven weeks, and legislation with most of us has grown to be a familiar and uneventful task. So pass the sessions year after year, and, like the minute workers that create the coral islands of the Southern ocean upon which mankind has built his habitations, so do we, through our labours, gradually create that massive structure of law upon which the happiness, prosperity and future of this fast-growing community of the splendid West so largely depend.

"An epoch, sir, is drawing to a close—the epoch of reckless devastation of the natural resources with which we, the people of this fair young Province, have been endowed by Providence—those magnificent resources of which the members of this Government and this Assembly are but the temporary trustees. That rugged, rudimentary phase of pioneer activity is doomed to end. The writing is on the wall; the writing—to put the simple fact—is in this Forest Bill. Armed with that weapon, as forged by this honourable Assembly, the Government of British Columbia will undertake the work of forest conservation.

"Sir, a certain solemnity of its own surrounds the introduction of this Forest Bill. An epoch is condemned, a new epoch inaugurated, a turning point in the development of this great young Province reached. We raise ourselves today above our transitory interests of this week, this year; we glance down the vista of the years to come, and, turning from that vision of the future, we call the world to witness that we legislate today, not only for ourselves and for the needs of this day and this generation, but also, and no less, for our children's children, and for all posterity—that we may hand down to them their vast heritage of forest wealth, unexhausted and unimpaired."

Amid prolonged applause the Minister resumed his seat.