

of the land, should take up this question, so as to understand it sufficiently at all events, to induce him to give his support to the governments which are working in the direction of the conservation of our forests, and of the students and political economists who are pointing the way for those in authority to act.

I am glad to-day to see the representatives of the King in our Province of Quebec present, to open this conference. It is fitting indeed that the head of the State should do this work. Especially is this the case in regard to forestry, because in the larger sense at all events, the Forestry of Canada applies chiefly and primarily to the Crown domain of our country, and the lands of our country which are chiefly under forest in regard to which forestry must be applied is chiefly the domain of the Crown. Especially is this the case in the various provinces, because in the Provinces in the perview and control of the Provincial Legislature is the Crown domain of our provinces, and the Dominion Government can only deal with and apply forestry to those Dominion lands which are outside the provinces, or which, to a certain extent, are still under the perview and control of the Government at Ottawa.

This subject may then naturally divide itself into three points

First, the dealing with forestry from the point of view of the Dominion Government, in regard to those lands in the western countries which are still under the direct control of the Dominion.

Second, with regard to those Crown domains in the various provinces, which are under control of the provincial authorities.

Thirdly and lastly, and very far behind in importance to the other two, those forests under the control of private proprietors.

Let me say, sir, that so far as the Dominion Government is concerned, and in this I speak for the Government, that the Dominion Government of the present day, is most earnestly enthusiastic in doing what it can to preserve our forest wealth in those lands over which we have control.

I have only to point to the fact that the first and greatest Forestry Convention of our Dominion was called at the instance of Sir Wilfrid Laurier a few years ago, when it was held at Ottawa, the Capital of the country, and that the Dominion Government on that occasion laid before the country through that Convention its work, programme and displayed its interest in this very important question. I think that Convention did great good in Canada. It is true before that time the students who were specially interested in this forestry work, and the lumbermen of the country, had been studying and thinking about the vast and terrible waste of our forest lands and