

Conservation Commission, the chairman of that body, the then chairman of the Railway Board, the representatives of the railways interested held a conference in the office of the Minister of Railways of that time and expressed their views strongly as to what should be done for the protection of forests along railways built or under construction. Also, the Department of the Interior had certain methods of dealing with timber lands in their charge. The result of it all, was if I remember well, that certain amendments to the Railway Act were drawn up and submitted for the joint approval of those interested. And under that amendment powers were given to the Board of Railway Commissioners which were very wide in reference to the protection of forests. I think that if orders have been given in this case it would be under those amendments to the Railway Act. And I have been told that the two railways, of their own accord, had begun to use oil as a fuel, although I am not sure. It is also very well known that the Imperial Oil Company, which is the Canadian branch of the Standard Oil Company, is establishing a distribution plant in the West, for the purpose, I suppose, of meeting that demand. It may be somewhat hard on the coal producers of Alberta and British Columbia if the large consumers of coal use oil. Is the chief of the medical staff of the Conservation Commission across the ocean at present?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Yes, he is in charge of the Red Cross work.

Mr. GRAHAM: Is he still connected with the Conservation Commission?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: It was suggested by the Red Cross Association that his services might be utilized in connection with Red Cross work. The chairman of the commission was consulted and he gave it as his opinion that leave of absence might be granted to Dr. Hodgetts without detriment to the public interest.

Mr. GRAHAM: That gives rise to the question as to whether the Government intends to create a new portfolio in the Cabinet, to be taken charge of by a medical man. Some months ago I had the pleasure of listening to a remarkable address by a young Canadian woman now resident in the city of Rochester. They have established in that city a "Live a Little Longer" association, the object of which is to give instruction in first aid. The public school

buildings are utilized for the purpose of holding and giving instruction. Lectures are given by physicians; practical demonstrations are made by physicians and nurses as to how to treat every sickness in its incipient stage. Medical men assert that many deaths could be averted if those in attendance upon the sick person knew immediately what to do. Sometimes a few moments delay in getting a physician means death, while prompt action may save life. In Rochester valuable information in this connection is being carried right into the homes. Mothers are being instructed as to the symptoms of the diseases to which little children are subject, and how to deal with them 'instantly in order to protect these little lives until professional aid arrives.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Is the instruction given to the parents?

Mr. GRAHAM: The mothers go to the schools and receive instruction. As evidence of the fact that this work proves to be of practical value, I may point out that this young woman was asked to deliver this address at a meeting of the presidents of the life insurance companies of America. The heads of these great institutions believed that the information to be gained from this young woman's experience would be of actual financial benefit to their companies; they printed many thousand copies of the address and sent them all over the United States. I think it would be worth while bringing this matter to the attention of the Conservation Commission with a view to seeing whether we in Canada could not undertake that kind of work. I wrote the Chairman of the Conservation Commission, and sent him a copy of the address. He seemed impressed with the idea, but unfortunately the war broke out. Dr. Hodgetts was called away, and I suppose the matter was crowded out from the attention of the commission. It ought to be considered whether we in Canada cannot, perhaps at first in a small way, and with little or no expense, using for the purpose our public school buildings which are unoccupied during the greater part of the day, establish courses or classes of instruction along this line. If we should do so, I believe the benefit to the people and to the country as a whole would be marvellous.

Mr. McKENZIE: Does the Conservation Commission give attention to the conserving of forests in the provinces, or do they

[Mr. Graham.]