

employees employed underground, or nearly five times as great as among the Kaffir labourers of the Transvaal.

Much of this is, no doubt, due to the fact that Canadians have not, until the last few years, been a mining people. New mining districts have been opened up in great haste. Work has often, almost of necessity, been placed in incompetent and inexperienced hands. This has been, perhaps, to some extent, inevitable in the early stages of mining development. But we do not desire that, in Canada, the rush for the wealth of the mines should be characterized by the same coarse disregard of human life that has been evident in some other countries. We have got far enough now to take stock of the position and adopt a forward policy. If a man is employed to take charge of a boiler and engine on a small steamboat, he requires to show that he has passed a rigid examination as to his qualifications. Is it not equally necessary that there should be a standard of qualification for the man who takes charge of the development of a mine, where the lives of employees are constantly at stake? While it is most undesirable that the mining industry should be too much hampered by governmental interference, public opinion would surely, in view of the above figures, support the Government in going much farther in the way of regulation and inspection.

Fisheries—This is one of the greatest of our national resources, the means of livelihood of a large and important branch of our population. No effort should be spared to promote its perpetuation and continuation. Ever since Confederation there has been a department especially charged with the duty of conserving the fisheries, and extensive expert investigations have repeatedly been made. A Committee on Fisheries has lately been added to the list of select standing committees of the House of Commons, and I believe that efforts are made in the selection of the members of that Committee to appoint gentlemen who are familiar with the subject. Some of the Provinces also have Departments who are charged with the care of the fisheries and pursue an active policy. It will be a matter for you to decide as to what course can best be adopted to strengthen the hands of those who are charged with the important duty of dealing with this subject.

Public Health—The physical strength of the people is the resource from which all others derive value. Extreme and scrupulous regard for the lives and health of the population may be taken as the best criterion of the degree of real civilization and refinement to which a country has attained. It cannot be said that it has received too much attention, though the Provinces, the Dominion, and the municipalities have health laws and health administrations all doing effective and