

that is a great improvement. But I submit, that this is not enough. I submit that something more ought to be done, if it be only to have more patrolmen. I believe that we should have the woods patrolled as they are in Germany and France, so that, as far as possible, every incipient fire should be prevented from spreading. Moreover, we should impress every man in Canada,—the lumbermen, the sportsmen, the man out of any class—with the belief that it is a crime, an absolute crime to throw a lighted match upon the ground, to scatter the ashes of a fire, or to leave a camp fire before it is absolutely extinguished. All these things are crimes and I would go so far as to say that they should be made crimes under the law.

There is another mode of destruction to which I want to call the attention of the convention and it is the destruction by the railway locomotive. The railway locomotive is a great blessing undoubtedly, and I am not here to say anything harsh of it, but if you take the train at Halifax to go to Vancouver, in every province of the Dominion, where there is timber, in Nova Scotia, in New Brunswick, in Quebec, in Ontario, in British Columbia, you will see miles and miles and miles of what was once beautiful forest and which is now nothing but parched and blackened timber, a monument to the destructive power of the railway locomotive. I know that the railway men have done a great deal to obviate this evil. They use all possible ways of overcoming the difficulty inherent to the operation of the railway locomotive. They have put screens upon their stacks, they have devised different methods, but all these methods have been inadequate, and I do not know that in that direction they can do more than they have done, but perhaps the railways ought to be compelled in the summer season, at all events, to have extra patrolmen on their tracks so as to prevent incipient fires, to follow sparks in their progress and to extinguish them before they have caused any damage. I think that is one question that ought to be carefully considered by this convention, and I believe that if it were to do nothing more than to prevent fires by railway locomotives this convention would have done a great deal, but I think it will do more than that.

There is another subject to which I would also invite the attention of the convention. That is tree planting. It is not sufficient that we should preserve our forests where we have forests. It is not sufficient that we should plant forests also to a great extent, but we should invite people generally to give more attention to tree planting at their homes, and especially upon their farms. The Canadian government, some eight years ago, introduced into one of its departments a forestry branch. It has done a great deal of good in that respect, and I hope that Mr. Stewart, who is the administrator of this branch, will give us some information as to the work which he has done. It has done a great deal already to my certain knowledge, and to the knowledge of every one who has been in the North-west. It was my privilege last September to visit the province of Manitoba and the new provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta. Fourteen years had elapsed since I had seen them before, and of all things which struck me in this wonderful country, the thing which perhaps gladdened my heart more than anything else, is the attention which is given to forestry. Fourteen years ago when I first visited the province of Manitoba and the Territories of Alberta and Saskatchewan, the farms were absolutely barren of trees; you could not