

Conservation and Technical Education

products amounted to \$100,000,000. That is wealth gathered out of chaos by labour. It is not the exchanging of property from one pocket to another, but the actual enrichment of the people by intelligent labour. There are people who, still, even in serious discussion, call a farmer "a clod-hopper" or "hayseed." If you call a boy down to a low standard of behaviour or character he will incline that way; but call him up to a high standard and he will grow that way. I have patted enough boys on the head to know that. And it is a damaging thing to Canada that men in cities have so little knowledge of the meaning of agriculture. What is growing crops anyway? It is the finest application of human power to the creation of wealth from Nature's resources. A plant spreads its leaves and gathers in sun power. It sends down its roots and gathers up a little of the strength of mother-earth. It is the marriage of Father Sun to Mother Earth—and the farmer manages the job. If he uses poor seed or gives the plant a poor root hold, its leaves are not spread out abundantly and the sun does not roll himself in. The man who has most brain power to control the lowly life of bacteria in the soil will by cultivation make conditions suitable for their activity. They are the cooks of plant food. He will also select seed with great potency to produce plants that will gather in wealth, from soil, air and sun, to roll into the lap of our people. Farming is not only making wealth, it is partnership with the Almighty.

I might go on to speak at length of minerals and fisheries and forests, but time will not permit. The revenues, in Canada, in 1909, in round figures came to \$90,000,000 from minerals, \$69,000,000 from forests and