

in years hence when the population is much more numerous and conditions have become much more complex.

It is with much pleasure that we recognize the good work that is likely to follow from the commission on the conservation of our natural resources. The report which has been issued goes to show that there is much to do; and, judging by some of the addresses, much is going to be done.

While it is very well to take into careful account our timbers, minerals, streams, fish, fur animals, etc., we must not forget our people. In Canada there is at present about 7,500,000 people. Taking the value placed on the average of the people of countries like Great Britain and the United States, as determined by competent statisticians, at \$1,700 for all ages, we would have the grand wealth of this country in her people of \$12,750,000,000. This is a big sum. Put in words it is nearly thirteen billion dollars.

The committee of one hundred in the United States has reported that the monetary loss in that country in lives lost and time lost, due to preventable causes, \$1,500,000,000; or one and one-half billion dollars. If the same proportion held good for Canada the loss would be about \$125,000,000 a year, which could be prevented. In other words preventable sickness and deaths are causing more loss in dollars than the entire national income, for the management of which we have thirteen ministers of the crown.

Surely this need not be pushed any further. Those who run may read. It is true that the provincial jurisdiction in such matters must be carefully borne in mind. But there is ample work for a Health Department at Ottawa.

OCULISTS MAY PRACTICE.

Mr. W. J. Harvey was convicted some time ago by Magistrate George Eady, of Renfrew. From this conviction Mr. Harvey appealed, and the case was heard by Mr. Justice Middleton. Justice Middleton set aside the conviction who held that the Medical Act could not be enlarged to mean the prevention of an oculist from examining the eye and prescribing suitable glasses. We will have more to say upon this subject; but, in the meantime, wish to enter our dissent to this opinion.
