

Conservation and Technical Education

what steps might be taken to conserve the natural resources of their nation. That was a great gathering—in my opinion one of the greatest gatherings in history. Early in the following year we had the pleasure of an address before this Club from Gifford Pinchot, at that time Chief Forester to the United States. He brought to Ottawa a message from Washington inviting the Government of Canada to appoint representatives to a continental conference to consider the conservation of the natural resources of North America. The invitation was accepted and Hon. Sydney Fisher, M.P., Hon. Clifford Sifton, M.P., and Dr. Henri S. Béland, M.P., were the men who were sent to represent Canada. The conference drew up a declaration of principles. Soon thereafter the Parliament of Canada passed a special act providing for the formation of a permanent commission—the first of its kind created by any government. The Commission was duly constituted and held its first convention at Ottawa, in January, 1910. Twelve Cabinet Ministers, three Federal and nine Provincial, serve on the Commission *ex-officio*, and twenty other men. Its business is to enquire, to consider and make recommendations as to how the people can conserve forests, minerals, fisheries, waterpowers and waterways, lands and public health. It is also its duty to make such inventories, collect and disseminate such information and conduct such investigations as seem conducive to the accomplishment of that end. Some things can be conserved by legislation, and in some matters the Commission may consider what legislation and what administration will best prevent waste, loss and unprofitable destruction or consumption. The Commis-