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FROM THE NEW BOOKS.

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSION OF
CONSERVATION, CANADA.

Hon. Senator Edwards, in his opening remarks said: There is one thought that comes to my mind, and that is this: Canadians have an idea that Canada is a country of unbounded and unlimited natural resources. From its very inception, the Commission has undertaken to ascertain just what our natural resources are. Outside of agriculture, which is our great and fundamental resource, lumbering, mining and fishing are the only resources that Canada has. In agriculture, our resources are very great, and it is the department in which most can be done for the promotion of the welfare of Canada. The greater work that can be done in any department of Conservation is to promote good agriculture. Education that will lead not to the diminution of the productiveness of our land, but such as will increase that productiveness, will be of the greatest possible benefit.

I am afraid that Canada over-estimates her possibilities. This is a Northern Country, a dear country to live in, and a dear country to produce in and must continue to be so. We have the advantage of a good climate, which produces a strong people. That is perhaps our greatest resource. While we have difficulties, we have the energy to overcome these difficulties. In addition to that, if we do not conserve that which we inherit, there is a time coming, when it will be a very bad day for Canada.

I just throw out these hints for what they may be worth.
The Federated Press, Ltd., Montreal.

CHILDREN'S STORIES AND HOW TO TELL THEM.

Sometimes the germ for a story just pops into the mind; no need for hunting the story-protoplasm in its lair, for those to whom it comes thus readily. Many there are, however, who must chase and beat the bushes until a suitable suggestion appears.

Since the children's story is not so complex in structure as is much of the fiction affected by adults, we need not seek so far for fresh themes as must our brother, the magazine writer, for no one is likely to accuse us of plagiarism if we revamp old story-ideas. Here our purpose is not to attain to absolute originality—if indeed anywhere in fiction such a thing is any longer possible. In going to the stories of others for hints or plot-germs, you may examine, first, the kinds of stories, to find out whether one sort especially suits the two foundation requirements—the particular need that calls for a story, and your own limitations of knowledge and ability. For example, a fairy story may seem out of harmony with your purpose, a travel story beyond your equipment, and a humorous story not consonant with your mood. Thus the whole range of kinds may be searched over, until one stands out the best. Locality is a fertile field for stories-ideas. The hill country will suggest original tales of games and hunters, of beasts and trees, of streams and torrents, of clouds and peaks. Imitation of the methods of great storytellers will be of help here as everywhere. The big hills and the little ones may converse. The mountains may be made to war with each other. We may tell a story of how Old Baldy got the hole in his side, or of how Mr. Coyote grew