

lands, water-powers and forests, but particularly the latter. The general idea, however, was that the friends of conservation were more wide-awake than ever, and on every hand there were expressions of determination to work, to fight and to make sacrifices to have these resources developed and used for the very best interests of the whole country, and to keep them from falling into the hands of trusts and corporations with no other object than to exploit them for the greatest present profit regardless of the future.

The sessions were held in one of the halls of the magnificent New Willard Hotel. There was a meeting of Directors at 10.30, the general business opened at noon, and at one o'clock the assembly adjourned to an adjoining dining room where lunch was served to about one hundred and twenty five including quite a sprinkling of ladies. It may be remarked in passing that while this luncheon was in every way strictly first class the determination of the American Forestry Association to keep their organization as democratic as possible was shown in the fact that the charge for tickets for the luncheon was only \$2 apiece. This was in all respects a most enjoyable function and at the close there were several significant speeches.

HON. W. L. FISHER.

Hon. Walter L. Fisher, Secretary of the Interior, made a most illuminative address in which he emphasized two points. The first was that the cause of forest conservation had lost in the past and would continue to lose in the future if its friends did not kill the old belief, industriously propagated by its enemies, that conservation meant negation, stagnation, the locking up of forest resources and the keeping back of development indefinitely. The thing which conservationists must now do was to show the public, what they knew to be the case themselves.

namely, that conservation was affirmative constructive and progressive. And second, he told the great steps forward that had been taken in the past year in the matter of disposal of water-powers on federal lands. Up to 1912 there were only two methods of developing water-powers. The water-powers might be deeded outright to the applicant or they might be leased to the applicant on a lease which could be revoked without five minutes' notice by the Secretary of the Interior. During 1912 the law had been so amended that water-powers could be now leased for a period not to exceed fifty years, the rentals to be reviewed and if necessary readjusted every ten years. Where the government and the applicant were not able to agree upon the new rent to be charged at the end of any ten years' period the matter was to be settled by arbitration and the onus was on the lessee to show that the rent was too high. While at first some of the organizations claimed that no water-powers would ever be developed under the leasing system, the great majority had admitted that the system was fair. As confirming this Mr. Fisher pointed to a lease to a powerful corporation of rights which would result in the immediate future in the electrification of five hundred miles of main line of one of the transcontinental railways. A leading railway man had told him that this was just the beginning and that within a few years under the same system twenty thousand miles of railway lying between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Ocean would be electrified. He had drawn attention to the fact that this was a powerful corporation as showing that this was not a case of the government 'squeezing' a small concern that was not able to take care of itself. He predicted that under this new system a very rapid development of water powers on national lands of the United States would take place, and this