

appeared impracticable, and so I undertook the responsibility of making the arrangements myself with the co-operation of Mr. White.

It appeared to me that it would be well at this meeting to make some remarks indicating my own ideas as to the way in which the work of the Commission should be carried on, but I need not say that, in doing so, I have no idea of trying to impose my own views upon the Commission. On the contrary, what I desire is that the members of the Commission should make use of me in the fullest possible way for the purpose of carrying out their views in regard to the great and important subject which we have to consider.

We have met to-day under the mandate of the Parliament of Canada for the purpose of inaugurating a work which is fraught with most important consequences to the people, not only of our own generation, but of the future. Parliament has deemed it wise to constitute this Commission for the purpose of promoting the conservation of our natural resources. The Bill was introduced by the Government; it passed both Houses of Parliament without a division, and may therefore be taken to represent the unanimous view of all parties in the House of Commons and the Senate.

The Commission, it is to be noted, is exceptional in its character.

First, it is not a portion of the ordinary governmental administration for which the Government is politically responsible. It is a Commission created by Parliament and entrusted with certain duties, upon the performance of which it is to report from time to time. The funds necessary for carrying on the work must, it is true, be procured by application to the Government of the day, which will introduce the necessary estimates; but, otherwise, the work is totally independent of the ordinary administration of affairs.

Second, the Commission is constituted in such a way as to secure upon its membership three members of the Federal Government and one member of the Government of each Province, insuring, therefore, the presence of a sufficient proportion of members actually engaged upon and experienced in the details of administration in the various parts of the country.

Other provisions requiring the appointment of members from the Universities, provide for the presence of a considerable proportion of men who have attained distinction in connection with our scholastic institutions. It is therefore evident that Parliament has legislated with the object of securing upon the Commission a high degree of scholarship, of scientific knowledge and of administrative experience in order to ensure the work being successfully undertaken.