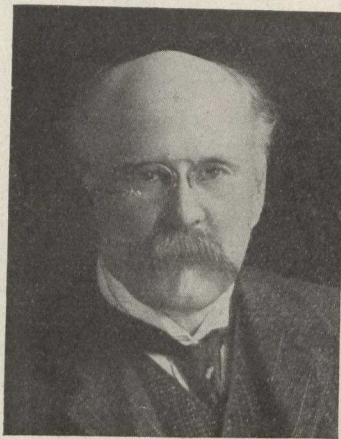




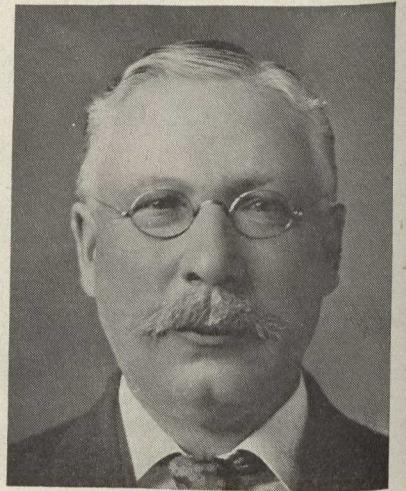
Honourable Clifford Sifton, Chairman of the Commission.



Mr. E. B. Osler, M.P., Director Canadian Pacific.



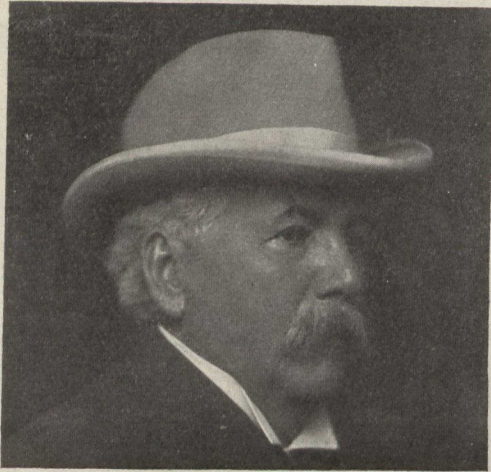
Mr. Frank Davison, Nova Scotia Lumberman.



Honourable A. C. Rutherford, Premier of Alberta.

The Conservation Commission

A body of men almost as distinguished and representative as the House of Lords



Honourable William Templeman, Minister of Mines, Ottawa.

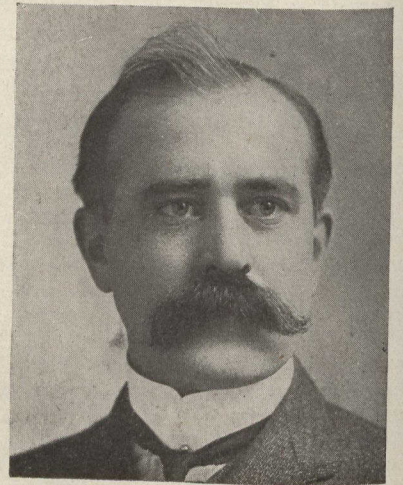
SOME years ago an old farmer who in his middle life had got a few jobs boring for oil and had therefore become impressed with the marvellous potentialities of the earth, said to the writer: "Yes, sir, this earth's gitt'n' bigger every minute." He referred to the stars that were continually falling into the earth, and to the grass that grew up and went back to the land again, and the trees that rotted into the earth's surface; in short to a whole lot of things that looked to him like miracles. That farmer had no idea of merely physical laws. To him the world was an inexhaustible storehouse of eternally replenishable raw materials—and if he had been told that in the first month of 1910 a body of men would have convened in Ottawa for the express purpose of keeping raw material in Canada from going to waste, he would have considered that somebody was crazy.

For some days past this remarkable body of men has been holding conferences in Ottawa. The gathering consists of cabinet ministers, educationists, manufacturers, business men, financiers and agriculturists, mining experts and lumber men. They are the National Conservation Commission, which was appointed last summer following the international conference on natural conservation at Washington.

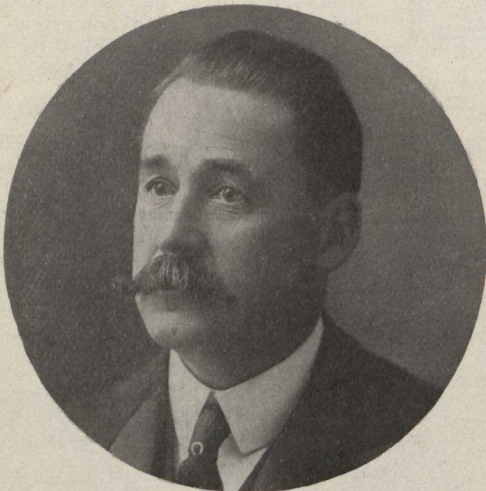
To conserve natural resources has become a popular business nowadays. Once we had illimitable forests. They are going—in many large areas, gone. Coal is wasted by millions of tons every week because of waste in consumption added to wasteful methods of mining. Less than twenty-five per cent. of the heat value in coal is converted into energy at the steam-chest. Minerals have been wasted by bad methods of smelting. Water powers have been running riot; especially since the denudation of the forests, leaving any thaw or heavy rain to flood land and sweep away power machinery; then in a dry time the stream runs so low that there is no power left.

Years ago in Canada we had millions of buffalo. Scarcely one is left. Many years the whole of the Canadian West was practically a sealed book to the average Canadian, because it was still held as a fur preserve. Had we taken hold of the country sooner we might have been producing three hundred millions of wheat in a year from the west instead of a hundred millions.

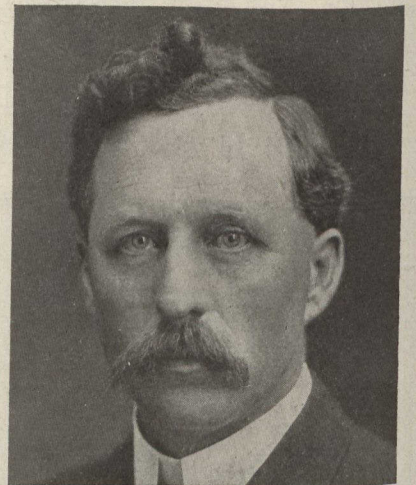
Not so long ago a prominent railway magnate in Canada said: "The best way to conserve natural resources is to develop them." This from a railwayman's point of view is good logic; but it needs comparative analysis. Undoubtedly the best way to get the value of land to the highest point of production is to use



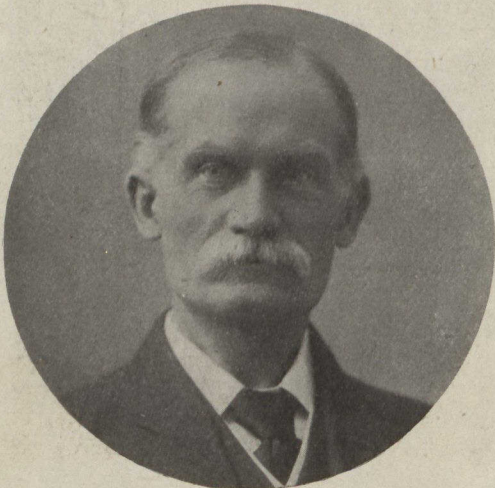
Honourable J. A. Calder, Provincial Treasurer, Saskatchewan.



Honourable W. C. H. Grimmer, Solicitor-General, New Brunswick.



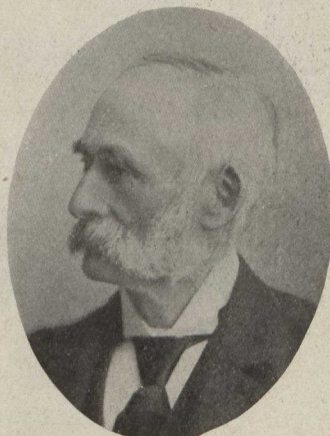
President H. M. Tory, University of Alberta



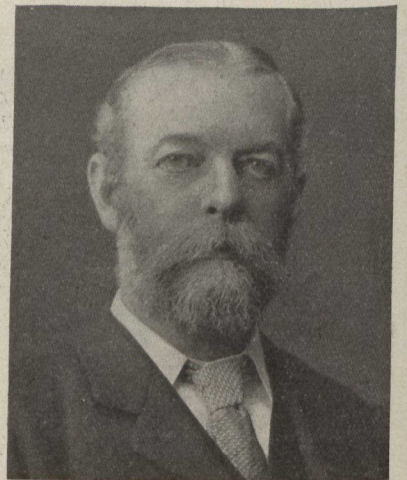
Dr. J. W. Robertson, Macdonald College, Ste. Anne de Bellevue.



Dr. Henri S. Beland, M.P., Representative from Quebec.



Mr. Benjamin Rogers, Prince Edward Island.



Honourable Sydney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture.