

COMMISSION OF CONSERVATION

Each and all of these resources of our national domain (with the exception of the mineral deposits) can, however, not only be restored to its original condition but may, if we take vigorous action at the present time, be conserved, cultivated and not only be made to yield a higher annual return than at present, but while doing so to increase in value year by year, and be handed on by each generation to the succeeding one in a better and more productive condition than that in which it received them.

It is time for the people of Canada to awake to the realization of these facts, and in so doing to remember that in the last analysis the success of any policy of conservation depends upon the efficiency of the human unit.

The instinct of the savage which still survives in the ordinary man, inclines him to seize what he can now and for himself, and let others, including posterity, take their chance. The national instinct for the preservation of the State does not, however, lend itself to any such practice of personal aggrandizement and selfish waste.

Canada should learn the lesson exemplified in the rise of such a powerful state as Germany—relatively poor in natural resources but becoming rich by their careful conservation and able husbanding. This conservation is part of that "righteousness which exalteth a nation."

And, finally, let us remember that, in the words of Dr. James Douglas, "we should be preservers of the gifts with which a beneficent Providence has stored our world, for next to being a Creator, man reaches his highest position in being a saver—a saviour."