

Conservation and Technical Education

He did not match the place. And what do you think about ourselves, with this superb estate that has come to us? Do we match the place? I think we can. But it is up to us to do something different and better than we have been doing, or we will not match this matchless heritage of resources.

The Commission of Conservation is investigating and considering the condition and extent of our resources. The contents of these big areas of which I have spoken are vast, varied and valuable beyond anybody's apprehension. Our knowledge is very inaccurate, even in regard to small areas, very incomplete in regard to big areas, and altogether badly arranged in our heads. Who knows the extent of our forest areas? Or the destruction and damage by fire or the loss from wasteful methods of lumbering? Or the possibilities of growing trees successfully on areas good for nothing else? In short, while the lumbermen and holders of timber limits are growing rich, is the wealth from forest protection and forest growth inuring to the benefit of Canada? The Commission of Conservation is to enquire into what we have and how we can best conserve this estate for this growing people.

On a former occasion you heard an address from the Chairman of the Commission of Conservation, Hon. Clifford Sifton. Hence I need touch but briefly on the history of the subject. The motive towards definite organized action came to us from our neighbours and friends—the United States. In 1908 President Roosevelt had called a conference of the Governors of all the sovereign States of the Union at Washington to consider