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CONSERVATION, OR THE PROTECTION OF NATURE.*

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The most vital problem to be solved by Canada, at the present time, is to know how we can insure the prosperity of the country and the consequent and incident prosperity of her people. An enormous country is entrusted to our care as a people, a vast heritage of Nature abounding in untold wealth and productive of the greatest good. Nature is not ours to squander, to amass wealth at her expense and enjoy a transient prosperity; it is ours to protect, and the protection of Nature is nothing more or less than the insuring of a national happiness. Through the foresight of the representatives of the people who are charged with the country's weal, that question has been answered, regardless of political creed, and in such a way as to place Canada in the front rank of those nations upon whom the future existence of the world will depend. We must conserve those resources of Nature in which are bound up the very life of this country and its future, and Canada enjoys the privilege of having the first Commission appointed by a national government to promote the conservation of our natural resources.

But it must not be supposed, in fact it is the greatest mistake to suppose, that this is a question which concerns those alone who are charged with the governing of the country. It is one which concerns every Canadian, whether he be an owner of thousands of acres or the rude pioneer blazing the path of progress through the wild unknown: it concerns every citizen.

To the naturalist, however, it should and does appeal with especial force, and it is on this account, because conservation means nothing more or less than the protection of Nature, the prevention of destruction without perpetuation, and because the work of the biologist must form the basis of a large proportion

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