

# Conservation Commission Meeting, 1912

The Commission of Conservation held its third annual meeting, according to statute, on Tuesday, Jan. 16. The Commission met in the Carnegie Library, Ottawa, the members present being Hon. Clifford Sifton, who presided, Sir Sandford Fleming, of Ottawa; Hon. Martin Burrell, of Ottawa; Hon. H. S. Beland, of St. Joseph de Beauce, P. Q.; Hon. W. C. Edwards, of Ottawa; Dr. B. E. Fernow, of Toronto; Rev. Dr. Geo. Bryce, of Winnipeg, Man.; Messrs. Frank Davison, of Bridgewater, N. S.; C. A. McCool, of Ottawa, and J. F. Mackay, of the Globe, Toronto.

The chairman opened the meeting with a brief speech and then called on the different technical officers of the Commission.

Dr. C. A. Hodgetts, Medical Adviser to the Commission, reported for the Committee on Public Health, touching on the work of that committee in regard to tuberculosis, the establishment of a Dominion Department of Public Health and of a Dominion Laboratory, where sera of guaranteed strength and purity could be prepared, infantile paralysis, town planning and housing, rural sanitation, inspection of meat, the Ottawa typhoid epidemic of 1911, bovine tuberculosis, and the establishment of the Canadian Public Health Association.

Mr. F. C. Nunnick, agricultural expert of the Commission, then presented the report of that section. Among the topics touched upon were the agricultural survey of representative areas of the different provinces, and the investigation of alfalfa-growing in the province of Quebec; a number of suggestions for the future work of the Commission were also given.

Mr. W. J. Dick, mining expert for the Commission, presented the report of that section, discussing briefly the inspection of coal mines made under the direction of the Commission, making recommendations for the bettering of government regulations in regard to natural gas, records of drill-holes and plans of abandoned mines, and recommending a Royal Commission to investigate the high death-rate in the mines of Canada.

The chairman then brought up the matter of peat fuel, reading a memorandum prepared by the Superintendent of Mines on the establishment of a peat industry for Canada.

Mr. M. J. Patton, editor and assistant secretary of the Commission, then reported for the Fisheries, Game and Fur-bearing Animals Committee. Among the topics touched on were the investigation of the fish and game resources of the different provinces, the oyster and shad fisheries, fur farming and the unsatisfactory nature of the published statistics on natural resources.

Mr. Leo. G. Denis, hydraulic engineer for the commission, then reported on the work done in the investigation of Western water-powers, and discussed the matter of a 'power survey' for Canada.

Mr. A. V. White also reported on the British Columbia water-powers. He gave a resumé of the arrangements made with the provincial government in regard to the work, and also the work done under the Dominion Government authorities in the Railway Belt and by the Commission's engineers in the Kootenay district, also work done for the town of Red Deer, Alta.

Mr. Patton also reported for the publication work of the Commission.

## THE NOVA SCOTIA FOREST SURVEY.

Dr. B. E. Fernow then reported on the Nova Scotia forest survey. After touching on the origin of the survey, describing the data secured, the nature of the survey and the personnel of the party (already noted in the Canadian Forestry Journal, 1909, page 141), he gave some interesting facts secured as the result of the work of the party. The farm land of the province was found to be 20 per cent. of the area, the green forest area slightly less, virgin forest practically none (only some 100,000 acres), the burned-over area about eight per cent., the waste area recoverable ten per cent., and the natural waste area ten per cent. The total estimate of the timber of the province came to some eight and a half billion feet and might run to ten billion (10,000,000,000) feet. The distribution of the different species among these ten billion feet was found to be in the following proportion: spruce, five; hemlock, three; white pine, one. An investigation was also made into the rate of growth of the spruce, which was found to be much slower than was commonly supposed in the province; instead of producing pulpwood twelve inches in diameter in fifty years, it would take 120 years to do this. The present mill capacity of Nova Scotia was capable of