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Mr. MOWAT: I desire to speak with the utmost respect of the members of the commission. But it seems to me they don't do much harm and they don't do any good.

The WITNESS: The way I look at it is this. The voluntary associations in the United States lasted from 1909 virtually to 1914. In November, 1914, what happened was exactly what I predicted from the beginning. They had a meeting at Washington and went up with a big row and practically dissolved. They have been moribund ever since.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. You spoke to us of illustration farms, housing and forestry. That work is largely finished I presume?—A. Oh, no, sir.

Q. You have handed over the illustration farms to the Department of Agriculture. You have made investigations regarding forest preservation and fire ranging. Tell us what work you are engaged in now. Take illustration farms—

Mr. LONG: You made reference to forest fire jurisdiction and so forth. I would like to bring up this point. We have had tremendous forest fires in the northern part of Saskatchewan. There was never anything like them in the past. Would it not be relevant to the discussion to bring that to your attention and ask you to give it consideration?

The WITNESS: It certainly would.

Mr. LONG: I would like to do that. That fire swept across the entire northern part of the province and there is very little standing spruce now remaining I am informed.

The WITNESS: That of course creates a very serious situation because Saskatchewan has much more spruce than Manitoba for instance. If you will pardon my going back to your first reference to illustration farms. After we finished that work, we transferred our illustration farming expert to the Department of Agriculture. Then we looked around the field of better agriculture for another opening. Dr. Robertson, who is chairman of our Committee on Lands, suggested that we make an investigation of what you might call the typical county in Ontario. We selected Dundas as representing the maximum advantage. Since that time—it was in the year 1914 when of course we were forced to curtail our operations owing to reduction in our vote—since that time we have been making investigations in that county to ascertain the exact situation. We wanted to ascertain the reasons for the migration of the farmers from the farm, what could be done to get the farmers back on the farm, what could be done to increase our agricultural output. What we wanted to do was to study the whole question in all its phases and to ascertain why the farmer was leaving the farm and how that could be cured. We wanted to see what could be done to remedy that condition of affairs. That is the work we have been carrying on. We have also been carrying on work in that particular county in connection with the teaching of agriculture in country schools. When we began, agriculture was taught in three schools I think out of 78. In two years we induced them to introduce the study of agriculture into all 78. To my mind, one of the worst defects about our educational system is that we preach the system of uniformity. To my mind, if a school is situated in a community which is essentially a manufacturing community, I think the children in that community should be given—I won't say a course—but that the fact should be borne in mind that a large proportion of them will eventually take up manufacturing as a means of livelihood. I hold that in the country the schools should teach agriculture and so on, and I think, if it is taken up in this way, you will do more to interest children than almost any other method.

Mr. MOWAT: That is done largely in Saskatchewan now.

Mr. LONG: Yes.

The WITNESS: If I might pass on to the question of forests. At the present time, our output of paper and pulp will probably aggregate about \$180,000,000 for the year.

[Mr. James White.]